INTERNATIONAL

KEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



The £15 million man: why Alan Shearer is a bargain **O**Latest from Atlanta 166-1 shock for Goodwood County championship In the unique sports tabloid

Happy birthday Edinburgh Festival Review

Plus: why women are taking over the orchestra's, the new Ben Elton

The 'fattest cat' who is set to make £40m in just seven months

FORMER British Rail terminal manager, Sandy Anderson, was last night set to reap a bo-nus of £39.9 million made in only seven months from the sale of his train leasing company, in what was de-scribed by Labour as "the biggest privatisation scan-dal of them all."

Mr Anderson, managing director of the Porterbrook leasing company, and three directors, will become multi-millionaires if Stage-coach, the bus and train operator, gets official clear-ance for its £475 million bid for the company. They were immediately nickna "fat cat controllers" by Labour's shadow chancellor, Gordon Brown.

During the seven month period, Porterbrook has its original stake of £15 million increase by more than 500 per cent to

£80 million. With three colleagues finance director, Ray Cork: engineering director. Tim Gilberts; and chairman, Peter Watson — Mr Ander-son holds 15.76 per cent of the company. Their share was valued at £74.86 million, but Mr Anderson had the lion's share at 8.4 per

Mr Anderson started out as terminal manager for BR's container handling He is a former director of the leasing company. TIP. for which he worked for 12 tops a large three to the interest companies which own rolling stock which he worked for 12 tops a large three to the interest companies. subsidiary. Freightliner. years. He was then managing director of a trailer rental company for six years. He has been at Por-



Sandy Anderson, set for a bonus of almost £40 million from the sale of Porterbrook

Austin

company is 3.88 per cent. He will get £18.43 million; Mr Gilbert's share is 2.48 per cent. He will receive £11.78 million: Mr Watson's share is per cent. His stake is valued at £4.75 million.

When their company was set up last November, they and the rest of the 49 staff put up £15 million of the £75 million initial equity. with the rest financed by the merchant bank, Char-

Porterbrook is the smallest of the three companies

nanced by £527 million of venture capital. The Government has guaranteed 80 er cent of its revenue for

GRAVY terhouse, and bank debt.

Its total purchase was fi

PRIVATISED RAILWAY pointed out that huge sums have been made from sell-

eds (to August, 1996):

British Cost: \$820 million Northern Ireland Generating Companies: £186 million

National Bus Company subsidiaries: £149 milli

British Shipbuilders: more than 254 million

disclosures would emerge in the aftermath of the ing off the public utilities. break-up of British Rail.

undevalued" by the Gov-ernment and the managers ent buy outs ere now cashing in at the taxpayer's expense. BR was originally valued at £6.4 billion, but the core of its operation, Railtrack,

was eventually sold off for only £1.9 billion. The Department of Trans-

port said last night that the rise in the value of Porterbrook was a mark of the success of privatisation. Porterbrook, which

leases 3,774 trains to 16 rail companies, has not ordered new rolling stock since it was set up. This reflects the continuing lack of invest-

ment in the industry. Stagecoach, which entered the rall business when it took over South West Trains from BR in for human consumption. February, has made it clear that it will withdraw the said that the scale of Porreferred to the Monopolies terhouse's profits showed BR had been "massively and Mergers Commission.

New scare wrecks beef truce

Stephen Bates in Brussels

IE Government's hopes of an early lifting of the beef ban were dashed last night as the European Comadmission that BSE can be transmitted from cows to their calves had ruined any chance of the phased ending of the ban this autumn on which John Major pledged his

authority. Franz Fischler, the Euro pean agriculture commisday to write to Douglas Hogg the Agriculture Minister, say ing that the implications of the step-by-step approach to lifting the ban agreed at the florence summit would have

to be reviewed.

The letter swiftly follower the Government's about-turn in accepting the possibility that BSE can be transmitted from mother to calf.

As EU vets met again in Brussels to discuss the crisis which has crippled the £800 million beef export industry and spread consumer panic through Europe, Mr Hogg and his officials insisted that the risk of maternal transmission was slight — no more than 1 cent - and would have little impact on plans to slaughter an eventual total of

more than 500,000 cattle. But the announcement that more cattle will have to die amounted to another presentational setback for the embattled minister - even though ministers insisted that the hypothetical possibility of such a vertical method of transmitting BSE, through blood rather than feed or

milk, was already part of Whitehall's calculations. It seems likely that the European Commission will demand an even larger selective cull of British beef in an attempt to eradicate the disease. Another 50,000 animals

may have to be slaughtered. Cattle farmers, already reeling from the effects of 500,000 cattle over 30 months having to be burned instead of sold pleaded for more proof before

On top of this, another 120,000 productive dairy cows from BSE-infected herds are

Theory of maternal transmission is 'basically rubbish'

- Agriculture Ministry

spokesman, 1994 Matemal transmission is of 'no significance to

public health' - David Maclean, Junior agriculture minister, 1991

There is a 'continuing lack of evidence of significant maternal or horizontal

transmission' - Gillian Shephard, Minister of Agriculture, 1994

4f maternal transmission does occur it is unlikely to be a major feature of this

— Keith Meldrum, Chiei Veterinary Officer, 1991

due to be culled to satisfy the Florence summit conditions. The admission came on the day when the ban on owning tainted feed came into effect and the ministry was forced to confirm Opposition taunts

products — tallow and bull semen — lifted by yesterday was still enmeshed in techni-

The results published yes-terday by the Ministry of Agriculture show that, in a control study, 42 calves born of 272 cattle which had died of BSE subsequently developed the disease themselves.

This means that the mothers, though apparently healthy at the time, had their unborn cows. A control group of the same size and age produced only 13 off-spring with BSE, the source of their infection being

This has convinced the ministry that "maternal transmission", a possibility which it had long sought to dismiss, is in fact happening. It had been getting increas-ingly difficult to explain how there had been 28,402 cases of BSE in cattle born since the ban on feed contaminated by animal protein was imposed in 1989, only 1,203 of which were the offspring of diseased

It means that BSE will continue into the British herd into the next century. If Maff's optimistic forecasts of yesterday are correct, it will not die out for 12 years unless

The National Farmers Union said that there was no scientific justification for another round of culling, it "was

merely political expediency".

The Country Landowners'
Association said: "These findings should be researched turn to page 3, column 1

that Mr Major's hopes of get-ting the EU ban on beef by-

WE'LL GIVE

You Your

AMERICAN

EXPRESS

TRAYELLERS

CHEQUES

PRONTO.

NOT

MAÑANA.

Mr Anderson's other collegues will receive lesser benofits. Mr Cork's share of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for Labour called for an including specific control of the cent of its revenue for the cent of its revenue f Down in the meadow, you might cure the blues



Hypericum perforatum . . . anti-depressant properties

ORGET the Prozac trip down to a chalky field during July to September to look for a stalky plant with vivid yellow leaves edged with tiny black beads may be just as effective in dispelling the blues.

Scientists today are reporting that the common wild-flower known as St John's Wort is an effective treatment for mild and moderate

The plant, Hypericum per-foratum, performed significantly better than dummy | Medical Journal, point out | pills in treating depression | that St John's Wort has been |

ventional anti-depressants in some studies.

archers from Germany and America have re-examined 32 studies covering a total of 1,757 patients with mild or moderate depression who had been treated with extracts of hypericum. The scientists, led by Dr

Klaus Linde, of the Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich, say: "Hypericum extracts were significiantly superior to placebo and similarly effective as standard antidepressants."

The researchers, reporting the findings in the British Medical Journal point out

and was as effective as conventional anti-depressants in dreds of years for a range of ventional anti-depressants in some studies.

| dreds of years for a range of researchers say that wider for inflammations and burns, studies need to be carried out. | but is also useful for depressants in some studies.

epression. In Germany, where herbal medicines are widely licensed, more than 2.7 million prescriptions were written by doctors for hypericum preparations in 1993, at a cost of

around £26 million.
The doctors say that the treatment is highly popular in German-speaking countries but virtually unknown in the English-speak-

House prices are

fastest for seven

rising at their

and at which doses. There was also a need for further "head to head" trials in comparison with conventional anti-depressants. However, a low cost remedy with few side-effects would be a valuable addition to the ar-

where most people initially go for treatment of depression. They add that had they only looked at scientific studies on the plant published in English during their review of clinical trials, they would in the plant published book on herbal sacs, so that it was deemed suitable for healing wounds and burns.

Alan Shearer's

signing appears a

huge gamble, but

Newcastle could well

£15 million

moury of family doctors,

looking in more detail at what types of preparations of hypericum are most effective, with the menopause.

She points out that St John's Wort is an excellent Signatures - a medieval theory which maintained that, on the grounds of their appearance, plants would suggest their beneficial

St John's Wort yields a red oil when infused, and the

Weather 12; Obituaries 10; Comment and Letters 8 Friday Review

Quick Crossword 11; Radio 12; TV 12

American Express Travellers Cheques on the spot at Lloyds Bank.



Travellers

evailability applies to Scenling and US Dollar travellers chaq

Inside

Britain ertility experts expressed sadness and frustration as they started destroying more than 3,300 'unwanted'

World News The most serious leadership squabbles since it came to power in 1994 have riven South Africa's African National Congress.

confidence returns to levels seen in

vears as consumer the late '80s boom.

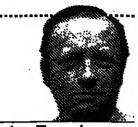
make millions on

the deal. Sport96

Sport

Sketch

in feelgood Essex



the political implications, he said: "It's difficult. There are saat it sufficient there are a lot of hurt people in this area who had fatth in the 80s, who changed their lifestyle and then had to revert. These John Ezard people have long memories about being let down." In the showroom, Gordon SSEX Ford is on Cherrydown East, one of those optimistically named, te dious highways which have and Benita Jones, in their six-ties, hadn't risked picking up their Mondeo Mistral at the party. It was her ruby wed-ding present to him. "If it had got scratched, we wouldn't have noticed in the dark," said Gordon, a retired plumbing nearly all southern towns. But at midnight yesterday it hummed with adrenalin like a Grand Prix starting grid. Gordon, a retired plumbing

Mechanics and sales staff did final checks as scores of Preg cars, packed with couples, children and friends, lined up revving outside the showroom. As the hour struck, they drove out in a jubilant caval-cade, horns blaring and hazards lights flashing "just to show people they had ar-rived", the dealers' chairman, Philip Maskell, said.

All it needed was a chorus of Happy Days Are Here Again. The feelgood factor had returned — at least for some — to Basildon, barometer of Conservative working-class fortunes. It was preceded by an epic, non-alcoholic party with parasols, wide-screen television and beefburgers. "I don't think beef sales in Basildon have been overly affected by BSE," Mr Maskell said.

Essex Ford, catering for an area with 183,000 people, handed over 125 P-regs by midnight. By last night it had sold another 125 and, with more orders in the pipeline, is on schedule to meet its target of 650 "units" by the end of this month. That internal target is higher than the quota set for it by Ford's.

These are the showroom's best figures since the recession's first shadow fell after 1989. If repeated nationally, they would realise the industry's hopes of selling 500,000 cars in August for the first time in six years.

The showroom didn't bother with a party in 1993, when fewer than 30 new vehicles left by midnight. "It would have been uneconomic and too depressing for the staff," Mr Maskell said. Total August sales in 1993

were round 300, catastrophi-cally below break-even. In

1994 they were 475, last year 570. It has been a long haul. "I don't think the feelgood factor is electric — but it's back," he said. Asked about

and heating engineer.
They've been able to buy
new cars since their children

left home in the early 1980s.

Benita said: "There's a terri-ble lot of people who can't manage it round here but that

depends on how much they spend. We don't smoke, drink or have expensive holidays."

John Greer, aged 32, a bank manager from Stanford le

Hope, collecting an Escort 16V, said: "For me the feelgoo

factor never went away. I

lose Basildon. Mr Belcher said: "Things are improving in the run-up to the election."

Emma Pigram, aged 17, from Canvey Island, was in with her boyfriend Paul Ford,

19, to buy a Flesta. Paul, who has cystic fibrosis, paid for it

never known anything except the recession, itemised what

it meant to her: "Walking through Basildon and nearly

Canvey. Two of our friends no being able to afford a push-

chair for their baby. Seeing a character called Loadsa-

money on television as a kid

and having a Loadsamoney T

shirt — but never knowing anyone who had loads of

every shop being empty. "Shops closing down in

with a Motability grant. Emma, who said she had

Company risks entering legal morass as it takes on American operator over 'malicious false claims' Pis for recovery BT sues rival in price War

IGNS that Britain's increasingly com-petitive telecom-munications market could deteriorate into a legal morass came yesterday as BT, itself facing allegations of misleading customers about its rivals, served notice that it was to sue America's biggest long-distance operator.

The privatised group which still dominates the British market but is facing competition from more than 150 companies — said it was chure in a table set to take legal action against the different charges.

AT&T for making "mali-

BT is to make a full state ment of claim in the High Court by the end of next week AT&T said BT's allegations were unfounded, and observers expect the legal battle may not be resolved until the The legal move appears to

centre on an AT&T brochure which, according to BT, claimed that it could offer customers lower charges on nearly all national and international phone services.
It is thought that AT&T used the BT logo in the bro-chure in a table setting out

One BT source denied the | customer base from competicious" false statements about BT's prices and for infringing its trademark. competitive claims from AT&T, saying that up to 65 per cent of long distance and overseas calls were cheaper company said.

> AT&T is no stranger to cut throat marketing techniques. US consumers have for many years been deluged by aggressive advertising from rival operators and marketing techniques like cold calling from companies trying to winkle custom away from ploited in follow-on ad-

> winkie custom away into their competitors. Yesterday the US company, which began offering services to businesses and selected small customers only this year, rejected BT's claims as a clear attempt by the dominant operator to protect its are willing to turn to litiga-

tion. "This is a strong arm tactic and we and our lawyers are confident that we can sub stantiate our claims," the

BT's action is not the first of its kind in the UK market. Last year the mobile phone company Orange was sued for malicious falsehood and infringement of trademark by its rival Vodafone. Vodafone lost, a fact that Orange ex-

But the battle is evidence of a marked shift in the UK tele communications market and in other industries where former state-owned monopolies tion to help fight market | tween BT and Oftel The battles. The telecommunications

watchdog, Oftel, announced this week that it is investigating allegations that BT gave misleading information to customers contemplating witching to cable companies.
Yesterday Offel said it was
aware of fresh instances
where the market leader had

misused customer informa-tion to lure back defecting customers. The company is accused of falling to stop its accused of fatting to stop its
staff using ex-directory numbers of customers who had
transferred to cable services.
The allegations about BT's
practices and its own litigation come in the midst of a

separate but related row be-

watchdog has given the com-pany until today to agree to a cept new powers for Oftel to investigate and penalise anti-competitive behaviour by BT. The company - which is happy with the price caps --

would leave it with no ade-quate right of appeal against the regulator. BT could force a Monopolies Commission inquiry by refusing to endorse the Oftel package.

Some City observers be-lieve BT will reject the pack-age in an attempt to force the Government to pledge speedy reforms of fair trading legislation, to provide an appeal

Shearer 'failed to score with his head'

Careers advice was offside. writes Vivek Chaudhary

have a cheap mortgage and a reasonably secure job. I find that for most people, though, it's hardly back at all."

Two couples collecting new HE gangly schoolboy, accompanied by his mother, walked into cars, Christopher and Chris-tine Belcher and John and the deputy headmas-ter's office for a bit of end of Sheila Harwood, disagreed term careers advice, but was in little doubt about what he over whether the recovery was real. Mrs Harwood said it wasn't and the Tories would

However, when the lad said he wanted to become a professional footballer, Ram Wallace, deputy head of Gosforth High School, Newcastle upon Tyne, told him: "Pull the

other one." Ten years and this week's £15 million transfer fee later, Mr Wallace is left eating a fairly large slice of humble pie after revealing that the 16year-old was Alan Shearer, Newcastle United's world

record signing. Mr Wallace said: "I remember I was allocated to interber I was anotated to inter-view Alan before he was due to leave Gosforth High. I thought at the time I was being level-headed with him and not pushing his sights too high His mother assured me he really was serious about

are on the way out."

- Decca records rejecting The

☐ "The biggest no talent I ever worked with."

— Decca boss rejecting Buddy Holly.

"I give the Rolling Stones

about another two years."

☐ "Can't act. Can't sing. Slightly bald. Can dance a

— Film company's verdict on Fred Astaire's 1928 screen test.

□ "You have a chip on your

- Mick Jagger in 1964.



Mark Knopfler . . . early efforts were 'dirge-like'

sional player, so I went next door to see the careers teacher, Jimmy Nelson, an ex-pro who had coached Newcastle Juniors.

"I asked Jimmy about his chances and he said, If he gets stuck in, he can make it.' repeated this to Alan and added, 'Whatever success you have, come back and share it

Mr Wallace, aged 55, maintains that he gave the young Shearer every encourage ment but also advised him to concentrate on his exams so that he would have academic qualifications to fall back on

 Film executive rejecting Clint Eastwood in 1959.

Film producer rejecting

president, in 1964.

Elvis Presley in 1954.

☐ "Reagan doesn't have the presidential look."

Ronald Reagan, for the role of

"You ought to go back to driving a truck."

— Concert manager, firing

☐ "Forget it. No Civil War

- MGM executive advising

□ "You'd better learn sec-

picture ever made a nickei.

against investing in Gone With The Wind.

| sticks out too far and you | retarial skills or else get

Starlets who confounded their critics

if he failed in football.

The deputy headmaster, who now claims that he was only joking when he made the Pull the other one' remark,

ent spotting once before. Two decades before Shearer lace told off one of his pupils for playing a guitar, telling him he would "never get any-where playing that kind of

Mark Knopfler obviously did not take this comment to heart and recently quit Dire Straits after earning around £50 million from worldwide

Mr Wallace said: "He was twanging some dirge-like tune. I took him to one side and told him he would never get anywhere playing that a multi-millionaire." An avid Newcastle fan, Mr

Wallace said that he was delighted when Shearer signed for the club and is looking forward to seeing him in action. More importantly, he says, he is relieved that the careers advice he gave to the young Shearer fell on deaf ears. Mr Wallace added: "The

school is very proud of Alan have used him as a role model in assemblies about how pupils should conduct

— Modelling agency rejecting Marilyn Monroe in 1944.

☐ "That rainbow song's no good. Take it out."

- MGM memo after the initial howing of The Wizard of Oz,

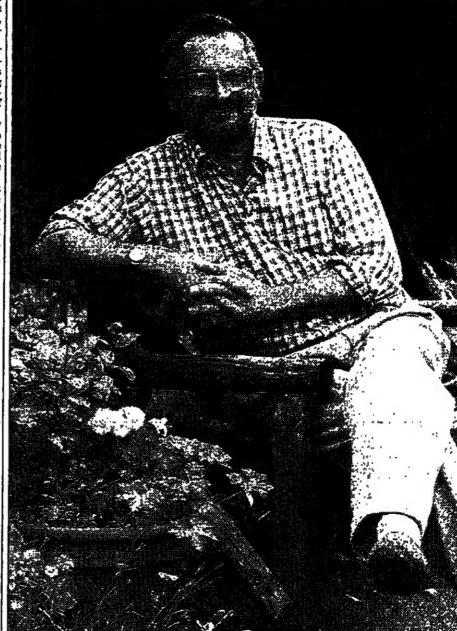
referring to Somewhere Over the Rainbow.

☐ "It will never be gener-

ally read."

— Newspaper review of Emily
Bronte's Withering Heights in

□ "We are willing to return the manuscript." — Publisher rejecting Jane Austen's nonel, Northanger



Ram Wallace, high school deputy head and failed talent spotter PHOTOGRAPH: TED DITCHBURN

Review

Struggling with Eliot's posers

Michael Billington Murder in The Cathedral

"HIS is a strange occasion: a production in Romanian of TS Eliot's 1935 verse-drams played by a new company, Art-Inter Odeon. When one learns that it was formed from the relics of the oppressed Odeon Theatre Bucharest, that it is homeless, struggling and independent, and that it is heavily involved with a Romanian orphanage. one desperately wants it to succeed; and one can truthfully say that this production by Mihai Maniutiu (who last year directed The Shrew at the Haymarket, Leicester) shows evidence of a powerful and disciplined theatrical imagination. How well it serves Eliot's intention is

more open to debate.
Elior's play presents prob-lems in any language. It shows
Thomas Becket returning from France in 1170, confronting the temptations of a martyrdom which he finally achieves through a brutal stabbing justified by its perpe-trators on the grounds of political expediency. But, dramatically, there is little development. Becket returns from exile aware of his im-pending fate and the tempta-

ral power are easily brushed ide: only in the scene with the Fourth Tempter, who ap-peals to Becket's spiritual vanity and the potential glory of martyrdom, do we feel any sense of internal debate. Steven Pimlott's solution in a recent RSC production was to put the play into 1930s cos-

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE Home Office has clashed with the gun lobby over links between legal gun ownership and crime.

The Home Office published a robust defence of research dem-

onstrating a link after Lord Cullen, who is heading the

Dumblane massacre inquiry, is not a sta asked officials to comment on ment policy.

Home Office fires back at

Office

gun lobby violence link

tions of the flesh and of tempo-

resurgent conflict between Church and State, Maniutiu's solution is to go all out for theatrical Expressionism: we get buzzing choric chants, a wide range of stringed, piped and percussive instruments. bisexual and dark-glassed empters, a symbolic top hat passed from hand to hand, and the constant presence of a crop-haired, androgynous figure who seems a mixture of Becket's conscience, alter ego

and spiritual protector.
But the main thrust of Maniutu's production is to suggest that Becket is a Christ-figure heroically resisting the temp-tations of earthly power. As played by the magnificent Marcel Iures, who has the bony asceticism of a born saint, he radiates spiritual au-thority. Iures discards the archiepiscopal cope in favour of a palmer's gown, distributes bread to the poor and at one point even disarms the knights as if to indicate he

will choose the moment of

As a reading, it verges on the hagiographic and under-cuts Becket's historic past as a wily politician. But it implies in Romanian terms, that spiri tual dignity is the best answer to an oppressive state. Iures's resolute holiness is also skilfully counterpointed by the snickering menace of Radu Amzulescu as a tempter who affects a conspiratorial intimacy with his subject. Heavily cut, the production downplays Becket's own self-doubts: what emerges is a stunningly effective piece of imagistic theatre that implies the blandishments of state

power can be overcome only by a steely integrity of soul

evidence from the gun lobby challenging the research. Evidence submitted by Rich-

ard Munday, the editor of Handgunner magazine, and the

British Shooting Sports Coun-

cil, claimed to have "destroyed the reliability" of the Home

Pat Mayhew of the Home Office research and stastitics directorate, says her evidence







'No hopers' . . . Buddy Holly (left), Fred Astaire, Ronald Reagan and Marilyn Monroe

Cuba trial for US fugitive

ested in having him back,"

Mr Vesco was arrested on

Businessman accused of state fraud and economic crimes

Ollah Greene in Havana

MERICA'S most notorious fugitive business-man, Robert Vesco, went on trial in Havana yesterday charged with economic crimes against the Cu-ban government which has shielded him since 1982 from legal proceedings in the United States.

The prosecutor, Edelmira Pedris Yumar, alleged Mr Vesco had violated Cuba's stringent laws on commercial activity and committed fraud against the state. He faces a possible sentence of 20 years. He is accused of trying to develop and market a drug for cancer and arthritis without the government's knowledge. His wife, Lidia Alfonso, faces

His wire, Linia Anonso, races similar charges.

In poor health for some time, Mr Vesco, aged 61, has been in a military hospital since December, US officials said.

He is considered the most time, Mr Vesco, aged 61, has been in a military hospital since December, US officials said.

He is considered the most notorious of the estimated 100 deals related to Vloran with left to the stimulation of the estimated 100 deals related to Vloran with left to the stimulation of the stimulation of

foreign companies that vio-lated the terms of his contract with Cuba, the Cuban company Labiofam, and the interests of the Cuban medical fugitives from the US legal system living in Cuba. He fled the US in 1971 after fraud ndustry. The charge sheet said he charges amounting to \$224 million (£149 million) over his

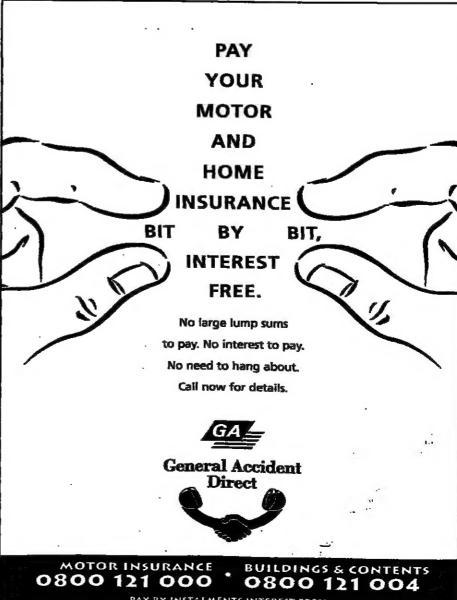
proposed a study of the drug to the health ministry, which authorised the research. But Mr Vesco, who was not supalleged deception of mutual posed to engage in business; as a condition of obtaining residence, sought foreign in-vestors in the project, per-suading them he had official fund investors.
The Havana government has shielded him despite fur-ther US indictments, including one in 1989 of using the country as a base for drug rafapproval. ficking. He was also charged in connection with an illegal

approval.

He pocketed most of the funds and formed a company to market the drug without registering it in Cuba, the \$200,000 donation to Richard Nixon's 1972 presidential re-NIXON'S 1972 presidential re-election campaign.

A US spokeswoman said the extradition treaty signed with Cuba in 1904 had not been in-voked to secure Mr Vesco's return for trial in the US. "We have let the Cuban govern-ment know that we are inter-ested in having him back" charge sheet said. His close friend Donald

Nixon, nephew of the late US president, was arrested with Mr Vesco and questioned be-fore being allowed to return to the US. He had arrived in Cubs in 1992 to enlist Mr Ves co's help in arranging for Cuben doctors to test a drug he believed was effective treating cancer and arthritis. Mr Nixon said his interroga-tors had believed the project was a cover for a CIA opera-



PAY BY INSTALMENTS INTEREST FREE

REDUNDANCY & SICKNESS 0800 121 008 - TRAVEL 0800 121 007

Weekdays 8am – 8pm, Sat 9am – 5pm. 5355 *Written details on request. General Accident Direct, FREEPOST, Hamilton ML3 1BR,

Peace Corps

Acquittal of war criminal angers Italy

John Hooper, Southern Europe Correspondent

AT had been billed as the world's last Nazi war crimes trial ended in uproar last night with a military court in Rome ruling the defendant was guilty, but unconvictable.

Erich Priebke, a former SS officer, had admitted taking

part in Italy's most notorious wartime atrocity. But the judges decided by a majority that his crimes were covered by a statute of

Screams of disbelief erupted from relatives of the victims as they watched the reading of the verdict on closed circuit television in an djoining room.

The court decided that

Priebke, aged 83, could not be held to have acted in a cruel or premeditated way because he was obeying orders.

He was obeying orders.
He was thus guilty of a crime liable to the military statute of limitation.
Their acceptance of obedience as mitigation appeared to clash with more than 50 years of precedent set in other trials arising out of the second world war.

As news of their wantlet

As news of their verdict reached parliament, normal proceedings were interrupted to allow a far-left MP make an impassioned speech.
Armando Cossutta said:
"The crimes of this delin-

quent, murdering butcher Priebke can never be expunged by a statute of limitation in the minds of the Italian people."

A centre-left MP announced he would be tabling a bill for the abolition of Italy's mili-

former Yugoslavia — and experimental science, rather than intuitive art-But the film director Franco Zemrelli, a former partisan and now a senator for Silvio Berlusconi's right-of-centre Forza Italia party, istry, is beginning to domi-nate the design process. For example, modern camouflage dyes are chosen not just for their daytime colours, but also for their infra-red characteristics, so

as to confuse night-time image-intensifiers. As Rome's Jews held an The British army, which for decades has stuck to its emergency meeting of their community forum, the left-led four-colour DPM (Disrup-tive Pattern Material), is working on bi-tech developoff the lights on its monu-ments in protest at the ments for its next range of Relatives announced plans to lobby President Oscar Scaluniforms. These include light-sensitive "chame-

leon" camouflage, that changes to suit the background. flage' by Tim Newark and

began extensive research to develop, among others, the "chocolate chip" desert pattern familiar from the Gulf war.

Nowadays every army

likes to have its own dis-

tinctive patterns — witness

the newly formed forces in



Erich Priebke: trial was swamped by controvers;

playing a leading role in the killing of 335 Italians in retaliation for a partisan bomb attack on German soldiers. He refused to testify in person, but in a written submission to the court admitted ticking off the names of the victims as they entered the caves south of Rome and shooting two of them

personally.
"I am sorry for what hap-pened. I've lived all this time with it weighing on my heart. But it was a legitimate repri-sal," he wrote.

The victims, including 75 The victims, including 75
Jews, were ordered to be shot
on the basis of 10 for each
dead German. Priebke displayed almost no emotion
during the three-month trial,
sitting impassive through evidence that he beat detainees at the Gestapo headquarters

His trial had been swamped by controversy since its cha-otic opening in a tiny courtroom. A military appeals court twice rejected applica-tions for the replacement of the judges from the prosecu-tion and counsel for the victims' relatives.

Both petitions were bas felt it was "right to place a stone over such distant, un-clear events from the past". on evidence that the presiding judge, Agostino Quistelli, had advocated Priebke's acquittal in a conversation held One of Italy's most distin-

guished jurists, Paolo Barile, said last night that a crucial ing Priebke to be tried by a military, rather than civilian, court. "He wasn't a soldier, but an officer in the SS, a unit faro. Ropes were also voiced that Germany would mount an action for Priebke's extrawhich required an oath of abin the position of not being able to refuse an order."



Artists who became masters of disguise

David Fairhall on revelations in a new study on the craft of camouflage

the first world war had its Artists' Rifles. The French had Les Peintres de la Guerre au Camouflage, a group of painters who specialised in the new-found military art — prompted by the appearance of reconnaissance air-craft over the battlefield of disguising gun positions and later individual soldlers with patterned

The authors of a new study of camouflage, shortly to be published by Brassey's, trace the French general staff's enthusiaem back to the work of Guir-and de Sceuola, a fashionable Parisian portraitist serving in 1914 as a private

painting canvas sheets to throw over the howitzers. De Scenola was quickly commissioned and put in charge of the first camou-flage unit in the history of



US army's 'chocolate chip' nettern, as seen in the Gulf war

French had camouflage workshops employing more than 1,000 men and 8,000

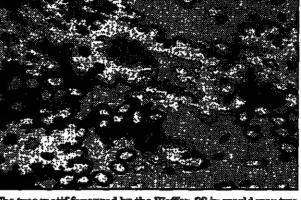
brass decided that perhaps the French were on to They assembled their

mon J. Solomon and Harry Paget. The German army did the same, employing among others a young cavalryman Franz Marc — in civilian

from Manet to Kandinsky. Picasso was among those who grasped the artistic, as well as the military, poten-tial in all this. On seeing a camouflaged cannon in the The British military streets of Paris, he cried out: "It is we who created

own camouflage team, in of military camouflage volving artists like Solo were the use of colours to and of shapes that break up the characteristic outline of a building, an aircraft or

a ship. In 1917 Lieutenant Commander Norman Wilkin-son, who had been an aca-



The tree motif favoured by the Waffen-SS in world war two

the fatherland's ancient

forests and the German tra-

dition of the hunter-soldier

little enthusiam for camou

flaged uniforms until they

jungles of Vietnam, when the local "Tigerstripe" pat-

to wear, on and off duty.

themselves in the

The Americans showed

before the war, came up with the idea of "dazzle" camouflage — using bold stripes and geometrical The Admiralty was so im-

pressed it ordered all mer

chant ships and some war-ships to be disguised in this During the second world

blend into a background, combined both camouflage principles in its splitter (splinter) pattern uniform with brown or green lines like falling rain.

warfare. Other painters life an avant garde artist — mander Norman Wilkin-such as Segonzac, Mare, whose designs, he said, son, who had been an aca-and Villon, were recruited. charted a development demic marine painter suggesting an affinity with But the elite Waffen-SS

Peace Corps sex battle settled

Male worker wins record pay-out | uty. She would suggest meeting for drinks to discuss office after harassment by woman boss

len Katz in New York

HE United States government has agreed to pay \$250,000 (£166,600) to a married Peace Corps worker who accused his female boss of trying to bully him into having an affair. The settlement is believed to be the biggest pay-out by the government to a male employee alleging sexual harassment by a female superior.

Raymond Millikin, aged 55. claimed that Deborah Holt Kirk, at the time inspector-general of the organisation that sends young Americans to do volunteer work abroad, frequently called him into her office then tried to grab and

According to a lawsuit filed vances after announcing gage in safety ear, she promised plans to reorganise her deprepartedly to promote him but passed him over when he would like to be her dep-

rebuffed her advances one time too many in June 1994. Mr Millikin, a long-serving federal employee, said the ex-perience had placed "tremen-dous strain" on him and his

wife and he was glad it was over. Under the settlement, the government admits to no wrongdoing but Mr Millikin may say be was sexually harassed.

Ms Kirk's lawyer, Stanley Brand, complained that the Peace Corps did not listen to her version of events before agreeing to the settlement. "On what basis do you settle a

case for \$250,000 to my know-lege never having investi-gated the allegations?" he According to Mr Millikin, Ms Kirk began making admatters but then change the

subject to sex. On one occasion Ms Kirk allegedly told him: "When I de-cide to have an affair, I have Under the settlement, Mr one on my terms or the way I Millikin has agreed to resign want it." Mr. Millikin claims from the Peace Corps. He he repeatedly reminded her plans to move to a 55-acre that he was married.

During a business trip to

Poland in April 1994, he alleged she made explicit sex-ual demands and "otherwise acted in a seductive, sexually oriented fashion towards

him". On his 53rd birthday she allegedly embraced him and kissed him on the lips, asking if he liked his "birthday pres-ent". He reminded her once more that he was married, but she replied: "That's your

Mr Millikin claimed that Ms Kirk eventually became angry about his refusal to engage in sexual activity with gage in sexual activity with her. She appointed other men to jobs which she had implied

When he eventually com-plained, Mr Millikin said Ms Kirk and other managers punished him by giving him tedious work and criticising

ranch in Montana. Ms Kirk resigned in April 1995, be-cause, according to her law-yer, "she had a medical issue and decided to move on".

The settlement is far from the biggest awarded to any male employee. In Los Ange-les, in 1994, a male worker at a hot-tub manufacturer won \$1 million in damages after claiming that his female boss made unwanted sexual ad-

wances almost daily.
However Mr Millikin's lawyer, Gary Simpson, told the
Washington Post that the payment indicated that "the government has acknowleged that the harm done to a man or a woman in one of these sex power plays is totally and

New BSE scare wrecks Major's hopes on lifting beef ban

continued from page I properly before there is any

of the practical implications, in particular for the proposed selective cull of cattle, and what basis of selection stands to produce the most effective common sense"

0800 444 445

continued from page I property before there is any more culling."

However, Mr Hogg said:

"We shall need to take stock of the practical implications, in particular for the proposed crart MP Paul Tyler comparison."

There was uncertainty over Mr Hogg's Commons statement on July 24 when he said ment on July 24 when he said:
and by far the most important and by far the most important cause of BSE" — five days after his committee of experts. crat MP Paul Tyler complete is committee of experts had considered the mother-again "a complete lack of calf link, of which he made no

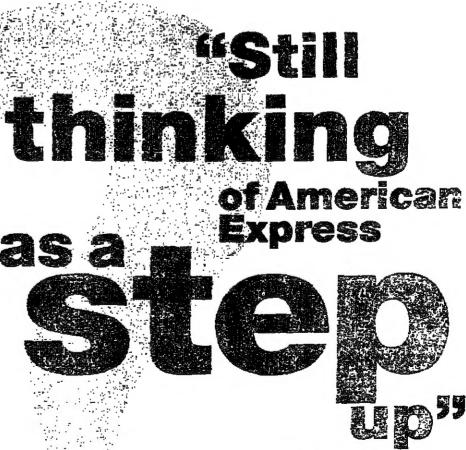
lent CJD, said no further action was needed to protect public health in light of the





The nationalist issue is not going to go away and is likely to haunt the **Edinburgh Festival in the future** even more than in the past. Michael Billington

Review cover story



Think again.

Are you stuck at the top of the interest rate ladder, paying as much as 23% APR? Come back down to earth with American Express. With our new Credit Card not only will you enjoy a low 16.7% APR on any existing balance transfer but also on all new purchases. Plus there's no annual fee for the first year.

To find out how we can help you do more, call now:

*080*0 700 767





eritors' APRs bused on £1,000 of credit with 1. £10 for, 2. £12 for, 3. No for. Squeez: Moneyfacts. America re is available on request. The standard interest rate for goods and scrivices is £3% per month (16.7% A he interiouse municipy repayments will be 5% of the outstanding balance or £20 whichever is greater. Appl

Government's credibility is undermined and culling will have to be reviewed, but spokesmen maintain disease will die out by 2008

Ministry sticks to its guns over BSE

Officials insist calf infection changes little

HE admission yesterday that cows can pass on BSE to their calves is another setback in a series of public relations diasters for the Ministry of Agriculture in recent months. Despite increasing evidence to the contrary, the ministry has stuck to the line that "maternal transmission of BSE" was unlikely. Its whole case has been based on the fact that cattle that have suffered BSE had aquired it through

eating contaminated feed.
Yesterday, however, it was finally conceded that cows can and do pass on BSE to their offspring and that wip-ing out the disease would prove harder as a result. The whole culling programme of cattle which had come into contact with BSE would have to be reviewed, because it was based on the belief that

'Conclusive proof came from one of the ministry's own experiments'

maternal transmission did

day that the ministry had learnt lessons from previous disasters. The worst came in March when, after years of in-sisting that there was absolutely no possibility of human infection from BSE, ministers had to concede there was.

As each chapter in the BSE crisis has unfolded, officials have had to concede that previous reassurances were over-optimistic, or that offi-cially ridiculed theories were correct after all.

There was no sign yester-day that the ministry had bro-ken the habit. Within minutes of conceding that vertical cials were trying to reassure people it did not really mat-ter. The number of cases was so small as to make little difference to BSE's eventual extinction.

The Government's independent scientific committee the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac) agreed that the new findings do not pose an increased risk to public health, but they do bility of the ministry as far as the culling programme is con-cerned. It also pushes back

the date when BSE can be eradicated and the time when European confidence in Brit-ish beginning. ish beef will be restored.

Although experts outside the ministry, notably Stephen Dealler, a statistician, have demonstrated to Seac that vertical transmission was occurrent the seach part of the statistic of the seach part of

try's own experiments.

In 1989 two groups of 300 animals were isolated, one the offspring of confirmed cases of BSE and the other from cows in the same herd and the same age whose mothers had not suffered the disease.

came from one of the minis-

The results so far are that of the 273 animals that have died or been killed from the first group 42 had developed BSE, but in the second group only 13 had developed the dis-case. The ministry says this provides evidence that the risk of maternal transmission is 10 per cent for the BSE-

Milk has been ruled out as a way of passing the infection, and the most likely explana-tion is that the call caught it theory has yet to be proved but the calves most likely to be infected appeared to be from mothers who were in the later stages of the disease at the time of their

cent transmission figure the ministry claims the risk of passing BSE from one generation to the next is as little as I per cent in "field conditions" because under normal conditions only one in 10 calves live to have calves of their

The ministry reasons that the steep decline in new cases of BSE will continue and that unaided in two generations. Since the average dairy cow lives six years, BSE will naturally disappear by 2008, the ministry claimed yesterday.

		H
	Cows over 30 months old	
	killed to date	<u> </u>
ı	cows 106,000	- i
ł	steers84,000	F.
ı	heifers28,000	l i
ı	bulls 2 500	31

Number of BSE cases

slaughtered to 1988	date
1988	2,376
1969	8,061
1990	16.641
1991	29.027
1992	43.155
1993	41.085
1994	28.703
1995	17.152
1994 (995 1996	6,216



Farmers philosophical over latest blow to livelihood

'The scare has been out of all proportion to the risk'

David Ward

MER a Cheshire sky filled with swooping house martins, a fourwhile her mother, a riesian cow called Number 27, looked on protectively.

Across the field, a Hereford bull wondered if he was the father. He wasn't: the calf, and four others born yesterday on a 200-acre farm near Knutsford,

cial insemination. As the calf began to suckle, farmer Stephen Wharfe sighed with satisfaction. "That's what we want to see," he explained. "They need to start taking milk within 12 colostrum, which is rich in things cannot get much essential antibodies."

Yet more bed news from the Ministry of Agriculture could not detract from the basic joy of the life cycle repeating itself. Mr a couple of weeks. A year Wharfe, a farmer for 35 ago she would have sold for \$250. years, enjoys his job but is frustrated at the way the

"Tve always maintained that the chances of getting BSE are like a blind man a black hat that isn't there," he said. The fact that scientists

have now decided that 1 per cent of calves will inherit worse than they already are: yesterday's pretty lit-tie black and white calf will

when BSE was at its height. Now there are about 200. The compensation system worked very well and made sure that nothing could slip through the net.

Ask Mr Wharfe for his views about how the Govthis year and he talks of bewildered frustration.

"Farmers realise there is a problem but the scare has been out of all proportion to the risk. The risk of BSE is so small it's herely worth Mr Wharfe, needless to

say, has not given up beef. He is deeply worried by the

year of confusion and

this had blown up three years ago, it would have been much easier to have understood the furore that has been created. It seems 'Over the years we have

had lots of eradication schemes in agriculture. Tuberculosis was eradicated in the fifties, brucellosis in the seventies. People possibly had more to fear from those two than they will ever to fear from

BSE.

prove a negative. But everything we consume has is no exception."

Draconian measures, inwashing fore on the one

cluding the slaughter of 500,000 cows, have been indemic, almost irrelevant.

"It doesn't really change things. Nothing else will have to be done because of it. One per cent of a declining number of infected cows isn't going to be sig-nificant. The only worry we have is that various people SE. will hype this up, as they "The problem has been did last week with sheep."

If your home insurance company doesn't deliver these MOVE

Find out if you're missing out. Ask the following questions: 1. Can I pay by interest free direct debit?

- 2. Do you offer a no claim discount on home contents
- 3 Do you have a free 24 hour helpline?
- 4. Will my cover automatically increase over Christmas and and before and after a family wedding - at no extra cost? 5. Does your cover offer a 'new for old' replacement policy?
- 6. Can I cut the cost by up to a further 3/1% with your
- 7. Will I receive automatic accidental damage cover for my
- TV, video and stereo?
- 8. Do you offer free legal advice?

If the answer is anything other than a straight yes, you're talking to the wrong people. So make a move to the right people. Call Eagle Star Direct today, and get a free home



Raiders handcuff mother of Greek tycoon

recovering last night after raiders burst into the family's the bannisters before escaping with thousands of pounds in cash and jewellery. Stephanie Slater was ordered to open up a safe by the

booded gunmen at the £1 million home of Spyros Metaxas

in Godalming, Surrey.
Once inside the house they fired two shots, one of which

house, to open the safe. Mrs Slater, in her 50s, even-

tually managed to free herself and raise the alarm at a neighbour's house. Her daughter, Kimberley, and son-in-law, Spyros, who sold his stake in the multi-

million pound family brandy business in 1989, were on holi-day in the Greek islands. In the last couple of years

THE mother-in-law of a injured a Rottweiler guard security has been stepped up dog, and then ordered Mrs at the 10-bed house, where the recovering last night after Slater, who was alone in the grounds are patrolled by security guards.

Detectives were trying to establish how the gang of four or five men managed to breach the tight security cordon and break into the

mansion.

"They were wearing bala-clavas to hide their faces and two of them were carrying firearms," said a police

Time to pay £175,000 to reporter over KGB claim

Ian Katz in New York

TME magazine vesterday agreed to pay £175,000 in journalist over an article in which it reported allegations that he accepted money from the KGB and was fed stories by the Soviet intelligence

agency.
Dusko Doder, the former
Moscow bureau chief of the Washington Post, has been

battling to clear his name since December 1992 when Time published the story giving details of a Soviet defector's claims that the journalist had been paid \$1,000 by a KGB agent.

In a statement read in the High Court in London yester-day, Time said it withdrew "without reservation ... any disparagement" of Mr Doder's reputation and professional integrity. The maga-zine conceded it had "no evi-

In a statement, Mr Doder said: "I am deeply gratified that I have achieved complete

vindication. It is a victory of against a giant corporation."

Mr Doder, who is married to BBC journalist Louise Branson, has also reported for The European, the BBC

North-east leads way with boom in numbers as leisure industry gears up

Northumbria ditches Andy Capp

Cabbies learn service with a smile to woo more tourists

James Meikle nunity Affairs Editor

TAXI drivers, traffic war-dens and dentists are being offered customer care courses by tourist chiefs anxious to improve Britain's rep-

Day-long lessons that began within the hotel and holiday trade are being adapted to other fields, including GPs' surgeries, hospitals and town centre stores, as part of the battle to keep Britons at home and entice more foreign

visitors.

Cabbies in Liverpool and Bournemouth are among those who have already undergone customer care undergone customer care training, learning about the value of tourism to the local economy and being schooled to monitor everything from local theatre productions to train times and coach tours.

High Clark, trading policy director of the British Retail Consortium, said: "Americans tend to see service with

cans tend to see service with charm as a skill and a requirement, whereas Brit-ons find it difficult, almost implying subservience.

Holidaymakers flock to unspoilt 'golden coast' to escape crowds

Peter Hetherington

OURVEYING the castle-Stopped coastline, the Cheviots and Hadrian's Wall country from the cottages at Beacon Hill Farm, the Graham family could not contain their en-thusiasm. "Britain's best-kept secret." they chorused as the westerly cut through the trees, sending holidaymakers running for wool

lies. No one complained. side, always plenty for the kids and so quiet and peace-ful — you can't beat it." For the past five years Tim Graham, a consultant cardiac surgeon from Bir-mingham, his wife, Lor-raine, and their four children have been coming to Clare Moore's small com-

plex, built round a farm near Morpeth. With an indoor pool, on offer, gym, children's in-door play area, and further adventure playgrounds, tennis courts, riding and tennis courts, riding and much more, it has won a string of national awards, it ions into touch," Peter has written the Golden again."

"At long last we're begin—lisher and journalist, who jam getting there: never again."

often beating England's well-established holiday

"People seem to be get-ting fed up with Devon and Cornwall," Clare says. She began converting farm buildings 10 years ago, then started adding more cottages. She rarely has va-cancies. "We can offer so much in Northumberland and they just come back again and again. The mes-sage seems to be the same: other areas are getting a bit

Figures yesterday from the English Tourist Board seem to bear out her view, with the Northumbria region — Durham; Cleve-land, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland itself — Northumberland itself—becoming the greatest growth area for the British holidaymaker. Last year it showed a 23 per cent increase, pushing homegrown visitor numbers up to 2 million. They spent an estimated £230 million, 53 per cent more than 1994.

"At long last we're beginning to kick the old percep-

Heart of England East Anglia

West Country Southern South East All figures expressed in millions

heaps, back-to-backs, whip-pets and Andy Capp. Like an old master, it seems we're being re-discovered." Instead, it is the quieter reaches of Northumberland, dubbed the "golden coast" in the latest tourist coast" in the latest tourist guide, the rolling hills of the north Pennines, Brit-ain's least-known national park, and market towns like Morpeth that are draw-ing tourists.

With Newcastle at eighth

place in one guide on the world's best partying cities, Mr Sloyan thinks the region might become fashionable.

73.9 38.5

Sloyan, chief executive of Coast Guide, says the the Northumbria Tourist area's "quiet" label is now Board, said. "You know pit becoming a popular selling becoming a popular selling point. "People know they can come here and get away from the crowds." Or they did. Last week-end he crossed the half-mile causeway to Holy Island and saw the main approach

road crowded with picnickers. "I just thought the way ers. "I just thought the way things are going they might have to restrict the traffic over there soon."

At Reacon Hill Cottages

Privatised rail firms try to head off strikes

Keith Harper Transport Editor

THE newly privatised train companies yesterday were preparing for talks with the rail unions to head off two 24hour strikes before and after the August bank holiday which would seriously dis rupt the rail network.

Conductors, ticket examiners and on-train catering staff at nine operating companies are threatening to strike on August 23 and 27 in two separate dis-

putes over productivity, pay and refreshment breaks. The strikes have been set to coincide with industrial action by London Underground drivers on those days. The drivers' series of one-day stoppages is set to continue into September. Their next

At Beacon Hill Cottages, Rick Vanes and his wife. Alison, remember taking their two children to a National Trust beach on the south coast last year. "It was very pleasant, but jampacked, and we spent an awful long time in a traffic."

The Rail, Maritime, and Transport union yesterday wrote to the nine companies. They are North West Regional Railways, South Wales and West, Thames Trains, North London Railways, Great Western Trains, InterCity East Coast, Cross-Country Trains, Moreovaide awful long time in a traffic Country Trains. Merseyside jam setting there: never Electrics and Regional Rail-

-17

BRITAIN'S rapid deployment force, the military "fire brigade" which will be first into action in any future crises like Bosnia or the Gulf war, was yesterday declared fully operational. With a headquarters in a bunker at Northwood, near London, the force is built round the marine commando brigade and the army's airborne brigade, with its paradroopers. Other units with heavier equipment such as tanks can be attached as required. The new force will take responsibility for providing a "spearhead" infan-





Plus a once paly entolment fee of £9.50 waived if you join by Direct Debit Cars registered before 31/7/87 are subject to additional fee of £12.50

Clinics start destruction of embryos

Medical Correspondent

ERTILITY experts spoke of their sadness and frustration yesterday as they went about the task of destroying thousands of embryos which have reached the end of their legal storage life.

The anti-abortion group Life claimed the embryos were being "deliberately put to death" and called on the Official Solicitor, Peter Harris, to intervene, But Mr Harris said he had no powers to

A law which came into effect in 1991 prevents embryos being stored for longer than five years, unless couples have consented to an extension of another five years. More than 3,300 will have been be destroyed by tonight because their "parents" failed to respond to letters warning of the deadline.

Hundreds more are being disposed of because they are no longer wanted, or not being given to other couples or research. IVF specialist Ian Craft, director of the London Gynaecology and Fertil-ity Centre, said he had hoped for more time to trace the

at the centre realised there | involved.

was no chance of a reprieve. "It has been very distressing and frustrating for every-

one," he said. Clinics should have been given another 12 months to get in touch with couples with embryos in storage, he added. He said phone calls from anxious "parents" around the world were received hours before the midnight deadline

expired.
The head of Cambridge's Bourn Hall Clinic, where as many 900 embryos were being destroyed, spoke of his dis-may at the legal necessity of the process.

rector, said: "I do not feel good bout allowing one embryo to perish without a nationt's nission, let alone 800 or 900." Clinic staff had checked the morning post and faxes for

last minute requests before starting the process at 8am. It was expected to last two days. More than half the embryos came from people living in 60 different countries. Trying to get in touch with these pa-tients had proved very

Dr Brinsden added that embryos were destroyed every day. However, yesterday was unique in that so many were being disposed of in one go and without the express per-Thawing started when staff mission of the couples



Legal action forces health authorities to withdraw blanket bans on sex-change surgery

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

11000

EALTH authorities are withdrawing blanket bans on funding sex-change surgery in the face of threats by transsexuals to take them

in the latest case, Glouces tershire health authority has agreed to pay around £7,000 authorities have agreed to dered the case to be expedited and unreasonable", and

mid-30s, who has lived as a woman for four years, to have the operation in Brighton. The transsexual, named only as W in court papers, suffered psychological trauma through believing she was in the wrong body, became an al-

surgery after solicitors acting for the transsexuals threatened judicial review or won leave to take the case to court. W's solicitor, Madeleine Rees, said: "They obviously don't want these cases to go to court because they're not

In W's case, the High Court In four other cases, health granted leave in June and or-

Harrison, told the court W's sexual identity dilemma had and she was having thoughts of self-mutilation.

Her lawyers argued that blanket hans offended against a cardinal rule of judicial review, that public bodies must not fetter their discretion. Bans were "irrational

tion Act and European law. As part of NHS rationing they would no longer pay for sex-change operations, although they continue to treat transsexuals with hormone shire told W it was a policy not to pay for such surgery because of financial con-

straints and because it did not

ingredients

perfect kitchen

QUALITY 2

VALUE 🗭

SERVICE &

aminarraed planning, froe delivery and a choice of payment mediads.

Installation 🗹

Your latches use he installed to perfection by use Magnet Master experts -fully trained is FTRA Gold Assurd Standards.

DESIGN Ø

ACCESSIBILITY @

200 shownoms maiomeride, there's bound to be our near you!

poles over £500 at the LTC marriand

OFFERS

FREE DISHWASHER SHIM

installation WORTH £569 (RRP) **OVEN PACK** Was £660 Now 2599 SAVE £61

LARDER FRIDGE KASH Was \$470 Now £399 SAVE £71

FREEZER COL

Was £560 Now £499 **SAVE £6**1

COMBI FRIDGE/FREEZER KHAZ Was 5780 Now £699 SAVE £81

FIRENZI

ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS OF THESE AND WANY WORE OFFERS

BI-131 Conthern Over, Gas or Flectro Hob T2113 or T1113 and Integrated Hond D2615

breached the Sex Discrimina- | have a sufficiently high priority.

Ms Rees said: "Informed medical opinion says trans-sexualism is a medical condi-

tion. The only treatment is one authority has agreed to pay for surgery for a male-to-female transsexual, but is refusing to pay for the more

complex and expensive female-to-male operation.

Colin Firth as Darcy in Pride and Prejudice

ITV steals BBC clothes in search for classic success

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

TV has stolen the BBC's iclothes in the race to pro-duce the next classic televi-

sion costume drama hit. Plans by the corporation to adapt Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre have been put on hold, because its commercial rival had already decided to produce a 120 minute film version of the

novel.

ITV has been so impressed by the success of the BBC's period dramas—particularly the audiences of 10 million for Jane Aus-ten's Pride and Prejudice ten's Pride and Prejudice—
that it has embarked on a
series of classical adaptations. The BBC had lined up
the Pride and Prejudice
production team of Andrew
Davies and Sue Birtwistle
to produce Jane Byre, before discovering ITV had
got in first.

fore discovering ITV had got in first.

London Weekend Television is expected to begin filming its version of Jane Byre in September, with the screenplay by Kay Mellor, the writer of ITV's gritty prostitute draws gritty prostitute drama Band of Gold. ITV has al-ready snatched the Davies/ Birtwistle team to produce Jane Austen's Emma for its autumn schedule and is to screen a bodice-ripping ad-aptation of Moll Flanders before Christmas.

A BBC spokesman said: "Jane Kyre is on our devel-opment list, but we have decided not to do it straight away. It would not serve the interests of the audience to have two versions at the same time."
But the BBC still intends

to develop a six-part adap-tation in two or three years' time. The BBC denied the delay

was a setback for its drama department. "We have a £10 million adaptation of Rhodes and Anne Bronte's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall lined up for autumn," said

Magnet Half Price

EXTRA 10% OFF* SALE PRICES **ONLY UNTIL 3RD AUGUST**

(SCOTLAND) BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 5TH AUGUST In the Magnet Kitchen and Bedroom Sale, every cabinet is reduced by at least 40% - most by 50%!

SHAKER - PLAIN & SIMPLE

FOR YOUR NEAREST SHOWROOM CALL FREE 0800 555 825. Food for thought OPPLING THE More STREET Short Street become mill feet on the street and a most consumating social Real Holder More to the Constitution of death of the Constitution of

'unfenced MoD land'

News in brief

THE parents of a teenage boy criticised the army yesterday after he was injured by an explosive device on a military training range in Cornwall.

Boy hurt by blast on

Colin and Gill Richardson, from Belmont, Durham, condemned the "woefully inadequate" warning signs and claimed Simon, aged 14, would not have been hurt had the area been fenced. He is in a stable condition in hospital after suffering 10

per cent facial burns from an exploding thunder flash.

The army began an inquiry into the incident, which happened on Wednesday after Simon picked up the device, used in training to simulate a grenade, on Ministry of Defence land near the training camp at Penhale, Perranporth. He took it back to the nearby Perran Sands holiday centre, where he was on holiday with his parents. 12 year-old sister Joanne and eight-year-old brother Adam, and it exploded.

Mr Richardson said his son had gone exploring sand dunes by the holiday site, then went on to unfenced MoD property posted with danger signs in "peeling" paint. He said the signs did not warn of any live objects which would "blow up and take

Lorry kills AA patrolman

AN AA mechanic and a lorry driver died on a motorway hard shoulder late on Wednesday night in an accident the organisation described as every patrolman's nightmare.

The lorry ploughed into a car John Jones was repairing on the northbound carriageway of the M40 near Gaydon, Warwickshire, Warwickshire police said. The car driver was seriously ill in

AA spokesman Simon Wooding said Mr Jones had answered a routine call-out to a breakdown about 11.15-11.30pm. "I'm sure that if you asked all patrols out there what their greatest concern was, it would be an unfortunate incident just as this one was." Mr Jones, who was married with two children, ope Learnington Spa area of Warwickshire and had been with the AA

Suffering for science

TWO researchers have suffered severe pain to produce the definitive advice on how to deal with a bee sting — get it out as quickly

Tradition has it that a bee sting should be scraped off, never pinched out, but Kirk Visscher and Richard Vetter say this is

likely to slow down removal of the barb. The entomologists, from the University of California, exposed themselves to 20 bee stings each on the forearm. Reporting their findings in the Lancet, they say stings have a piston and valve attached to a venom sac, and the longer they are left in the skin. the more venom is pumped in.

However, with African bees, which can be deadly and attack on large numbers, the researchers say it is more important to escape than worry about removing their stings.

Appeal hope for murderers

TWO men serving life sentences for six murders in the Glasgow "ice-cream wars" yesterday had their cases referred to the High Court as the first step to a possible appeal. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, has granted applications from Thomas Campbell and Joseph Steele to allow judges to review the cases to decide whether there should be an appeal against conviction. Campbell and Steele received life sentences in 1984 for the

murders of six members of the Doyle family by setting fire to their home in Ruchazie, Glasgow. An 18-month old baby was among the dead. The deaths were thought to be part of a vicious feud between gangs of Glasgow criminals fighting for control of ice cream van routes which it was said were being used for selling drugs. Campbell and Steele lost their appeals against conviction in

1965 but have continued to protest their innocance. Campbell's previous application to appeal was dismissed by the then secretary of state in 1990.

BBC and CNN raise stakes

A NEW phase of the global news battle between CNN and the BBC began yesterday. BBC World, the 24-hour news and information channel, is to launch in Latin America in the autumn, making it available in an additional 45 countries. Ted Turner's Atlantabased news network, CNN International (CNNI), unveiled programmes to revolutionise its rolling news format with a British

BBC World, which is facing an upbill struggle to challenge CNN's international supremacy, will be available in Venezuela, Brazil and Mexico from next month, and across most of Latin America and the Caribbean by spring 1997, bringing the number of countries it serves to 156. — Andrew Culf

Getty helps painting appeal

THE tycoon John Paul Getty II has donated \$50,000 to an appeal set up to stop a painting going to the Getty Museum in California, which is named after his father.

which is named after his father.

The money will help boost a £2.04 million appeal set up by the National Galleries of Scotland to buy Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancred, a masterplece by the Italian artist Il Guarcino. It is the second time that Mr Getty has intervened to prevent a it is the second time that Mr Getty has intervened to prevent a work of art going to the Getty Museum. In 1994 he contributed £1 million to keep Canova's statue The Three Graces in Britain.

But Mr Getty almost withdrew that donation after Timothy Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland, suggested that his generosity was motivated by a grudge against his father—a suggestion for which Mr Clifford subsequently apologised publicly.

Mr Geity's latest donation was announced today as the painting
—which is currently owned by the Howard family of Castle
Howard in Yorkshire — went on show at the National Gallery in

UK 'fire brigade' force ready

equipment such as tanks can be attached as required. The new force will take responsibility for providing a "spearhead" infantry battalion at 24 hours' notice—for example to reinforce the troops in Northern Ireland — and a battalion group for Nato's multinational mobile reaction force. — David Fatrhall



Unpaid builders sue Kremlin

As Russia's debt crisis deepens, construction

workers are bringing the protests home. **James Meek**

in Moscow reports

ISGRUNTLED builders are push ng the Russian internal debt crisis to the very centre of political power by suing the Kremlin for £25 million for a lavish programme of presi-dential reconstruction work

inside the fortress. With Boris Yeltsin's inauguration ceremony only a week away, the deputy mayor of Moscow, Vladimir Resin, said that Mospromstroi — a commercialised construction branch of the city authority — was taking the presidential administration to court be-cause it owed 202 billion roubles for the work.

While the government's empty treasury leaves wages and bills unpaid, despite Mr Yeltsin's pre-election prom-ises, relatively prosperous Moscow had seemed far from the strikes and energy black-

But Mr Resin told Sevodnys newspaper that Moscow builders were owed a total of 1,000 billion roubles (£120 million) by different federal

Among the unpaid bills was one for the reconstruction of the hospital in the southern Russian town of Budyonnovsk which was wrecked in fighting between Chechen

hostage-takers and Russian special forces last year. The new hospital enabled Mr Yeltsin, seen as respon-sible for the Chechen conflict. to look local residents in the eye when he visited the town on an election campaign trip. A spokesman for Mr Resin. Gennady Makarov, told the Guardian: "It's a fact they aren't paying up. The prob-lem's chronic. They didn't pay for Poklonnaya Gora [a war memorial complex] for a long time, then in the end they paid but there was another one they hadn't paid for. They move the debt from

one project to another."

Parts of the Kremlin are open to the public. But recent reconstruction work has fo-cused on the closed areas reserved for state functions d the presidential *apparat*.

Plans were announced last year for restoring furniture and fittings dating from the tsars and making the president's quarters more spacious and comfortable than those of French or United States

In the far east, hunger strikes and other protests continued this week against the non-payment of thousands of miners and energy workers and fuel bills, which recently led to power cuts throughout the region.

As miners claimed that they had still not received money promised by the gov-

Heiena Smith on Lesbos

THE fossilised forest of

Lesbos has survived

relatively unscathed

ernment, Interfax news agency reported that nine children from the mining village of Tavrichanok had been taken to hospital with food poisoning after they caught and ate a stray dog. Their parents were said to have been unraid struck Polyment. been unpaid since February.
Miners in the Arctic coal

city of Vorkuta say they are on the point of striking over pay and conditions, and a trade union official said the miners' unrest in the far east had spread to the south,

had spread to the south, where 17 of the 24 pits in the Rostov region were on strike and the remainder were making no deliveries.

"I can tell you a figure which might make you realise how bad the situation is." Ruben Badalov, deputy head of the Independent Trade Union of Coal Industry Workers, said yesterday. "The total amount owed in back wages is 2 trillion roubles (£251 million). There is a very high probability of an all-Russian strike."

In Samara on the Volga, meanwhile, 5,000 workers from the Tupolev passenger jet plant threatened to block railway lines unless they received back-pay from

The daily labour newspaper Trud gave a poignant exam-ple of the non-payments cri-sis. It reported that a female medical worker had passed

Nine children from a mining village got food poisoning after they caught

and ate a stray dog

out on a far-eastern railway track two days ago. When she came to, she said she had not been paid in four months and her husband, a miner at Amurskaya pit, had not been paid in five months. Her two sons were starving. "The train drivers collected

money for her, as much as they could, and gave it to the woman," Trud said.

The economics minister, Yevgeny Yasin, said on Wednesday that government tax collection had to be improved within four months to enable budgeted payouts to be made if industrial unrest were not to spread.

Mr Yasin said post-election scape after battle; many victims are left lying on the

He added: "The state cannot exist if it does not gather taxes. The state cannot carry out any policy if it does not have money. With market reform, with the freeing of industry, industry has made it clear it is not interested in the responsibilities which go with that freedom. Even if every Russian

enterprise conscientiously paid its taxes, the country would still face an enormous internal debt problem, since many unpaid bills are between supposedly commercial



Dawn raiders seize Chechens

Reuter in Dolinkove, Russia

MECHEN villagers gave horrific accounts of a dawn helicopter raid yesterday by masked men who shot dead two, kid-napped 18 and left two more to die from shock. They join the Chechen government in blaming Russlan troops.
Aslanbek Hassayev, a fire-

"His wife grabbed him, but they said they would shoot the children if [the family] didn't let him go," she said, tracing bullet holes in the wall of her flat.

Zupa Nagayev, whose wall ment, quoted by Interfax was also peppered with bullet news agency, accused Rusholes, said: "I cried at them sian Omon special forces of not to shoot, but they did any- opening fire without reason

Greeks get angry as tourists chip away stone forest

carpet."
Neighbours said Mrs Nagayev's husband was among 18 men taken away by the

raiders. They said two others were shot dead. An official from the pro-Moscow Chechen govern-

man, was asleep when way. I hid my boy behind the in the raid on Dolinskoye, 12 miles west of Grozny.

down, his mother said.

Neighbours said Mrs Na Residents said two helicop-

ters, 12 police jeeps and 12 armoured personnel carriers

"They only came into the first and second floors. They took away all the men they could find. The only man they left behind was a 65-year-old

terest rates.

Atlanta media take law into their own hands

lan Katz in New York

ESTERDAY'S news paper pictures of Richard Jewell, the security guard suspected of the Olym-pic bombing, showed him peering from behind what appeared to be prison bars.

In fact the bars were the balusters of a staircase outside his mother's Atlanta flat.

But the image was fitting enough, for the portly 33-year-old has already been all but convicted by the media of planting the bomb that killed one woman and injured more than 100 necessity. one woman and injured more than 100 people last Saturday. A photograph of Mr Jewell posing in military fatigues with an M-16 rifle was also reproduced in several newspapers. Criminologists held forth on television about a "hero sydrome", in which law enforcement officers commit crimes to draw attention to

As agents removed evidence from his home on Wednesday, there were television reports that masonry nails "consistent" with those in the Olym-pic bomb had been found.

One reporter, asked by his anchor about the significance of a roll of masking tape removed from the scene, blithely replied that it might have been used to bind together the pipes used in the explosive device.

Yesterday the FBI's direc-tor, Louis Freeh, dampened the frenzied speculation about Mr Jewell when he told a Senate committee that his agents were looking at "a number of suspects".

But he sounded as though he was trying to shut the stable door long after the horse had bolted. Whoever is proved to have planted the Atlanta bomb, Mr Jewell will be remembered as the hero who ecame the prime suspect.
By yesterday, as the small

army of reporters outside his flat began to thin out, Mr Jewell's overnight propulsion into notoriety was beginning to raise uncomfortable ques-tions about media coverage of criminal investigations in the

The FBI's suspicions about him were considered particu-larly newsworthy because he had earlier been praised for spotting the Centennial Park

heroics. Were television stations and newspapers right to name him as a suspect long before the FBI searched his home? Why did unnamed "investigation sources" help to turn the spotlight of the world's media on him?

"Whoever the burn was that leaked that Richard Jewell was the focus of the investiga tion deserves to be prose-cuted," said his lawyer, Wat-son Bryant. "I don't know how anyone can withstand the scrutiny that he has had." Mr Bryant's outrage reflected a naivety about the indecently close relationship in the US between law enforcement officials and the media. Although the police usually wait until they are about to make an arrest before inviting the cameras in, Ameri

I don't know how anyone can

withstand the scrutiny he's had'

and women led handcuffed from their homes in the glare of television lights before they have been charged. In April FBI agents had to

bring forward their raid on the Montana cabin of the man they suspected of being the Unabomber because a televi-sion network was about to name Theodore Kaczynski as the prime suspect.

Though they are apt to put

freedom of speech before the rights of suspects, news execu-tives sounded uncomfortable yesterday as they justified the overage of Mr Jewell. "The information was out there," said Rochelle Bozma the assistant metroplitan edi-tor of the Atlanta Journal-

Constitution, which produced a special afternoon edition on Tuesday naming Mr Jewell as the prime suspect.
"If the Atlanta police department knows about it, local TV stations know about

it, and we're going to be sit-ting here with egg on our

Elysée rivals break bread

Paul Taylor in Paris

CAMERAS were not allowed to record the reconciliation lunch at the Elysée to which Jacques Chirac invited his defeated fellow Gaullist presidential rival, Edouard Balladur yesterday. While the two may have broken bread, they are un-likely to have broken the ice. "They're not going to kiss on the mouth," one presiden-tial aide joked, when asked why photographers were ex-cluded from their first private

meeting since the election. President Chirac's support-ers accused Mr Balladur, the former finance minister and adviser he made prime minis-ter in 1993, of betraying a "30-year friend" by running against him. But Mr Chirac is anxious to reunite his frac-tious centre-right coalition in good time for the 1998 general

After a year in the wilderness since Mr Chirac's vic-tory in May 1995, Mr Balladur has called for bolder cuts in taxes, public spending and in-

The president's office said the atmosphere at the 90-minute lunch was "very cordial" and the two conservative politicians discussed a range of domestic and foreign issues. Afterwards Mr Chirac ac-companied Mr Balladur to his car and they shook hands, but made no statement, — Reuter.

News in brief **Bomb suspect**

released Huda Fudeh, an Israeli-Arab woman from Acre held for nine days on suspicion of involvement in two bombings of

Jewish targets in London in 1994, was released yesterday, Israel's army radio said. found no evidence against her. An angry Ms Fudeh said the investigation could have been completed in a day. -- Reuter.

Germ success

Japanese scientists examining a germ which has killed seven and made more than 9,000 people ill have identified bacteria but have still to pin-point the source, health ministry officials said yester-

Beyond the grave

The Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, said yesterday that the Greek Cypriot government had agreed to hand over the remains of his mother, whose grave in the south of the island is out of bounds to him. - Reuter.

Sticking point

An impotence clinic's advert featuring a picture of New Zealand's 1928 Olympic athlete Stan Lay holding a "limp" javelin has outraged him and his family. The country's oldest living male Olymplan said the doctored advert was used without his permis-

for the last 200 million years, but its future now looks increasingly fragile as it suffers the ravages of the marauding modern tourist. In recent years the great venture is full of stolen pieces students have sent me." colours, the petrified trees and fossil plants have proved hard for visitors to resist. sell them to museums or jewellers. If we hadn't Although the forest, which was buried under

In recent years the great In 1985 the Greek governstone trunks on the western side of this Aegean island have been disappearment passed emergency leg-islation declaring the area a protected natural site and holding out the possibility of a six month jail term for geologists into paroxysms of fury.

"It is one of the most im-

geological age that exists nowhere in the world," says Professor Evangelos Venizelos, who teaches pal-

portant natural sites in parts of the pre-historic Europe and represents a stony forest. But the law appears to have done little to keep the

fossil thieves away. With their ornate markings and extraordinary array of

volcanic ash before rainwater unearthed it, has been guarded around the clock and protected by iron fences since 1994, scientists say it is still vanishing at a anyone walking away with frightening pace.

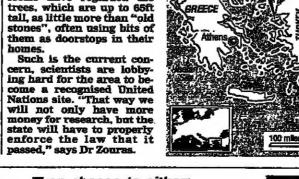
"There have been cases into the conditions which where people have been prevailed when the trees caught driving away with were growing. For years, truckloads of the trees. says Nikos Zouras, a local geologist who has spent many years studying the wood. "They either want them as souvenirs or they

taken protective measures, it's clear the park would not have survived at all." Last week Dr Zouras began a lecture tour of villages and hilltop towns on the island in an effort to raise local awareness of the forest's value as an insight

stones", often using bits of them as doorstops in their Such is the current concern, scientists are lobbying hard for the area to be come a recognised United Nations site. "That way we will not only have more money for research, but the state will have to properly

were growing. For years, resident ecologists claim,

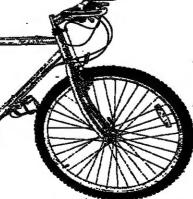
locals have regarded the



BUY NOW AND PAY LATER.

WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £199 ON BIKES AND CYCLE ACCESSORIES.

Pay 20% deposit and there's nothing to pay for six months.



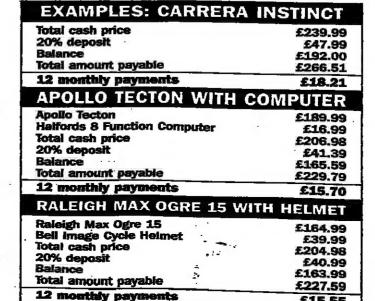
Then choose to either: Pay the balance in full before the settlement date and, pay no interest.

Take advantage of the credit offer to spread payments.

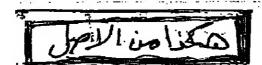
CHOOSE FROM A RANGE OF TOP BRANDS INCLUDING DIAMOND BACK

RALEIGH · SARACEN

CARRERA



27.5% APR (Variable). All loans subject to status. Not available to anyone under the age of 21 years. W



dia to lands

12 Weather/Television

The weather in Europe

Edinburgh
pages 2-5
Quentin Crisp:
Tereptin, my

Music page 6 Orchestral

Hollywood knives: Mark Lawson on Ben Elton's novel Books page 8

manoeuvres: why women are filling our pits

cap in hand...

The Guardian Internation

be the natural counterparts of this I superiority we seem some

they one to the next the total section of the secti

ws in bad

mir suspet



ck Crossword No. 8194

er hopes to open a brand-new Festival Royal Mile that will embrace lectures, cokshops and a clubroom, offering the

elitism and populism. That much is clear from a new book. The Edinburgh International Festival 1947-1896 by Elleen Miller (Scolar Press), which not only lists every single performance over the past 50 years but relives all the rows, recriminations and crises that have attended this asionishingly durable event. Right from the beginning, prominent Scotish music and drame: a point answered in 1948 by Tyrone Guitrie's magnificant production of Ane Sature of the Thrie Estaties in the Assembly Hall. But Hugh McDiarmid fuelled the controversy in 1949 by arguing that Scotland, through the Festival, had gained the world "with the usual effect on its own soul" and that imposing global culture on such a mean-minded city was "like giving the content of a University Honours Course all at once to a class of mentally defective children".

I doubt that many nationalists today would endouse McDiarmid glories as a poet, as a peimplieteer McDiarmid was "just plain daft". And today Paul Scotland's glories as a poet, as a peimplieteer McDiarmid was "just plain daft". And today Paul Scott, vice president of the SNP and president of the Saltire Society claims that his party has no wish to dictate Festival policy or influence the choice of director. "It's no part of our plan," he says, "to make Scotland less International. Indeed, one of the reasons why we want Scotland to be independent is to take our part in the rest of the world. But some years ago there was a public Conference to discuss the function of the Festival had deep and visible roots in the area where it happened, it was a fraud'. Broadly, we would agree with that. When we achieve independence, which could happened it was a fraud'. Broadly, we would agree with

critics' best and worst [hat Edinburgh feeling:

MY GREAT memory of the Edinburgh Festival dates back to its very first year, 1947 and the day when, as a raw National Serviceman, I went with other scruffs in Hall. Not only was
Iter conducting

Rob Yates

Comedy

By all accounts — particularly his own — Gerry Sadowitz is not a very nice man. What's more, the Glasweglan comic makes it his business to abuse those who

Dance

achievements of Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Many years later, in 1992, there was the Mark Morris Dance Group in Dido And Aeneas, in which, with "outrageous honesty" (Barishnikov's phrase), Morris danced both Dido and the elebrating the Maghilev's

Hawkins decked out in frocks wigs and high heels.

poor stand-up but the most disappointing per-

lears an occasional extra. Gerry, you big softle, where are

Lyn Gardner Theatre

1985. First Edinburgh.
Eighty-two shows in 14
days. On the Perrier
Award panel. Don't laugh all
week until I see Theatre de
Complicite's More Bigger
Snacks Now. Laughed so much

Throw up in one-woman show about child abuse. Lose play ticket. Throw up in one-woman show about child abuse. Phone office. Employer going bust, payment doubtful. Throw up in one-woman show about child in 20 days. See one-woman show about child abuse. Have food poisoning.

acked — and mit (5) arful (6) alwart (6) arcity (6) arcity (6) at hold of (5) aquent (files a oat) (5) utform (4) uff with loose d (9)

Kerbstone Olympics

Thought (4)

Thicher (4)

Thicher (4)

Tot and sultry (6)

Stableman (6)

Asymmetric (9)

Problem-solving

12 Armour-plated omnivore (9)
13 Obscenity (5)
14 Uncertainty (5)
18 Risk (6)
19 Wild ass (6)
22 Courage — needed by chickens (4)
23 Unfasten (4)

) (5,4) e seeker (9)

order either Steve Bell's "If Bottoms Out" or "Funny Old World" Books@The Guerdian; 29 Pall Meil Deposit, Bariby Road, London

Jardian Friday August 2 1996

he Guardian Friday August 2 1996



committed approach and ability to learn quickly and factively in a highly challenging environment.

ing date 15 August 1986. and by the state of the state o

The Further Education sector is fast changing – and whilst the focus is more than ever on creating an environment in which the talents of students can flourish, the support systems that help facilitate that success are becoming increasingly important. With this in mind, Walsall College – always in the vanguard of change – is ready to appoint an IT specialist with the ability to influence our strategy in this crucial area:

Manager – Systems and IT support c£27k plus benefits

A thriving college in the heart of the Black Country, we offer a broad cu asse of over 11,000 students – who choose to come to us not just from a vider Birmingham conurbation. We've invested prudently and consist echnology – and this has brought enormous rewards.

xurriculum to a diverse Walsall, but from the istently in appropriate

oruitment

Middlesex
University,
Bounds Green
Road, London
N11 2NQ.
Telephone:
0181 362 6110.
Please quote
ref J01.

comes a close second

Students first ... but technology

For an application form and further details contact

Degree/AND
vacanoles/National &
Local Opportunities/
Coffege Courses/
Retakes

WALSALL COLLEGE OF ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

St. Paul's Street, Walsell, West Midlands WSI IXN

r further details and an application form, plense contact the Personnel Office, Walsall llege of Arts and Technology, St. Psul's Street, Walsall WS1 1XN. aphone: (01922) 657049. Closing date: 15th August 1996. Plense of the Person of the Pe

scope is enormous, the commitment from senior management is assured - and experience to be gained is tremendous. To join us you'll need to have the opriate qualifications - and be able to demonstrate a number of years experience in a

we need someone special—a highly motivated individual who wants to be at the heart of business—and who can manage and develop the full range of our systems and IT services, y new projects are around the corner—but immediately you'll find yourself involved in trgic planning, total IT services management, the supervision of our individual Student and database and associated processes—and in the generation of increasingly responsive agement information. You'll also be a key player in the establishment of our Design re (which is supported by ERDF funding).

ORACLE DBA/Support Manager

POLITICAL SCIENCE **ECONOMICS AND** LONDON SCHOOL OF

THE LSE IS COMMITTED TO EQUAL CIPPORTUNITES

LSE IS AN EDUCATIONAL CHARIFF COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH

TRAINER MANAGERS

From 1st July to 28th September Toletext CH4 P.642-649 + P.669 Teletext

BRANDON FRIEDMAN 0171 379 3488

ace p canacing citero base Applicants will professely have a Ph D. 5+
sens appropriate experience, be proficient with undiagne electronics,
be able to work on their own influsive and may speak freglish to
make thought standard saftery £19 - 30k, depending on saliobility.
Please send CV by
Contact Precision Instruments.
Ett. Box 2804, Lundom NI ZEE,
PRECISION INSTRUMENTS
Int. (0171) 226 3049. Senior Bio-Medical Electronics Engineer <£30k, 0171 404 3636 S Engineer A Regreer in 117
minus reference
p. Support A
Norking. A
opment A



Mr. Major has promised ...and for much needed foo,000,000 jottery money to develop a lente of Sporting Excellence, a National Stadium, in a line of the lenter of the lent The body surface is 8% using the shoother than skin, which means an 8% need increase minimum What are we using at the moment? by David Shenton Mayonhause

The Guardian

TECHNICAL DESIGN MANAGER

Guardian Newspapers LId is the national newspaper division of The Guardian Media Group Pic which has interests in both publishing and broadcasting. Through the success of The Quardian and The Observer, GNL has won itself the reputation for being at the forefront of national newspaper innovation. Central to the future success of the division will be the role played by the iT department.

We are currently reviewing the entire information technology infrastructure of the company. The Technical Design Manager will be expected to lead a small team of staff that will carry out the review from scratch, prepare proposals for enhancing the infrastructure and finally help to implement the new design. The challenge will be to device a technical strategy to serve the needs of all activities in the company, encompassing fileservers, networks, dosktop equipment, operating systems and software, and to keep this strategy under constant review to meet the fast changing demands of new publishing.

editorial and advertising booking systems

The Quark Publishing system

> Apple Macs for design, scanning and graphes

> Novell fileservers supporting standard office applications

> A range of specialised UNIX based graphic systems

> A range of specialised UNIX based graphic systems

> Internet web services

The Candidate: The ideal candidate:

must be highly qualified in computer sciences (degree level plus)
 must have at lenst 10 years experience working in IT
 will have an in depth understanding of network design (including stouch and in depth understanding of working in publishing

This is an exciting opportunity for a talented and experienced IT professional to join a company which cot awards for excellence and is ranked number one by the advertising industry for innovation.

This position is based at our Farringdon Road offices. Please send your current CV with a covering letter briefly outlining why you want to work for The Guardian and The Observer to:

ans must be received by Thursday 8th August 1996. Viv Taylor Head of Recruttment, Training and Development Gunrdian Nowspapers £td 77 Farringdon Road London ECIM 3LX



a leading centre for teaching & research

EXCITING COMPUTING SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Senior Computing Officer (SCO): £16,717 to £20,388 ps. (progression bar at £18,352)

BIRKBECK COLLEGE, LONDON UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

RESEARCH POSTS

Computing Officer (CO): E11,685 to £12,840 pa

Or £13,284 to £16,078 pa (progression bar at £14,684)

Assistant Computing Officer (ACO): £10,685 to £11,368 pa

Technician: £10,885 to £11,368 pa

In course portfolios, increasing demand and technological change have given rise to an electronic within the University for IT professionals. We have opportunities for both new not for experienced professionals seeking a career more, and can offer you a pleasant well-not for experienced professionals seeking a career more, and can offer you a pleasant well-navironament, enthusiastic and committee Colleagues, interesting work and opportunities for an interesting

Applicants are expected to have some combination of skills in geographical date proc programming (eg. VRML, fava), an programming (eg. VRML, fava), an programming (eg. VRML, fava), an inguages (preferrly CIC++). The group will be composed of two researchers, on R&A 1A (Li4,317 to 221,519 pa) (Post R6005) and one 2.5 year post at R&A 1A (Li4,317 to 221,519 pa) (Post R6005) and one 2.5 year post at R&A 1A (Li4,317 to 221,519 pa) (Post R6004). Applicants for either post in this group should inclus completed application forms, but also examples of their own programs.

As Birkbrerk College, University of London, two activities will be addressed. I of data for prototype field areas will involve extensive independent fieldwork an as well as italson with audenis and staff from Leicester and Birkbrerk. Second investigation of the suitability of immersive technologies in virtual fieldwork.

Unless otherwise stated, these are permanent appointments.

If you are ambitious, suitably qualified and possess the computing and interpersonal skills required to work in support leants within a leading Higher Education institution we would very much like to hear from you.

Closing date: Wednesday 28 August 1898.

For further details and an application form cell 01762 232168 or write (quoting appropriate post reference and title) to: The Personnel Department, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA.

Institute Support (PC) Eluman Sciences Faculty Team 1959/ACSVC ne year appointment *** Three year appointment estared, these are permanent appointments.

Leicester University

The Observer

The Guardian Friday Aug

TEMPORARY COMPUTER OFFICERS Post 1: Network Support Se (Ref; C6002) Computer Centre

Post 2: Distributed Systems ! Section - (Ref: C6003



Department of Geography . The Virtual Field Course

The Joint Information Systems Committee under its Technology Applications Programm approved funding for development of a Virtual Fleid Course. The objective is to produce operately software to enable students to explore regions as they do now in conducted field trips, but Virtual Reality approaches.

Software Engineering Group Research Assistant (R6004) & Research Associate (R60

Based in the Department of Geography, University of Leferater, this group will build Virtual Field Course. This will involve integration of GIS, interface building, and \

Data Compilation and Immersive VR Group Researcher (R6006) & Research Fellow (R6007)

N A room of a house where I spenf a large amount of time when I was a child, there hung on the wall an imposing sepla engraving. It showed a group of hirsute, horned animals glaring flercely across a bleak horizon. Under this picture, in delicate copperplate type, was printed the name of a shire in Scotland by which these hairy beasts were identified together with the words. "Like the people that reared them. "Like the people that reared them, terrible in anger and slow to forgive." Somehow, although so give." Somehow, although so young, I recognised that this statement was not a confession.

For the Researcher, applicants should have a good geographical background and, CIS skills, and will work on the first activity. For the Research Fellow, applic experience of VR systems and programming, and will work in both activities. For I of 3 years at R&A 1A (£16,451 to £23,623 ps) and post R6006 will be for 2.5 (cf. 3 years at R&A 19.). Salaries are inclusive of Lomdon Weighting.

1938/ACSVC*

innu/User Support (MadPC/Acom) Arts & Education Faculty Team

1956/ACSVC***

1957/ACSVC

Arts & Education Faculty Tea

1954/ACSVC*

Human Sciences Faculty Team

Plymouth Business School

Modern Languages) (Mac/PC)

• SCO Applications/User Support (MacPC)
Exmouth

1951/ACSVC 1952/ACSVC* 1953/ACSVC*

1948/ACSVC 1949/ACSVC 1950/ACSVC

Aymouth
SCO Systems Support
SCO Applications/User Support
SCO Applications/User Support
(Novell/Usix) Systems/Human Sciences Team
(Novell/Usix) Systems/Human Sciences Team
(Novell) Network/Divisions Teams
CO Network Support
(Novell) Network/RATIO Teams
CO Network/Telematics Services (Daacon/SDN) Network/RATIO Teams

(DalaconvISDN) Nes (PC/Mac) Divi

Juentin Crisp

the Scots and

it is a vital part of its attraction.

It didn't Dunlop have a point? Isn't there some a self-satisfied about the way the Fringe each your self-satisfied about the way the Fringe each your ingly announces it is bigger than ever, as if size anything to do with artistic quality? I have then anything to do with artistic quality? Have then few siller statements than that by Hilory Strong. Fringe Director, writing in this year's Brochur.

Fringe Director, writing in this year's Brochur.

Not much has really changed over the fpage 6.

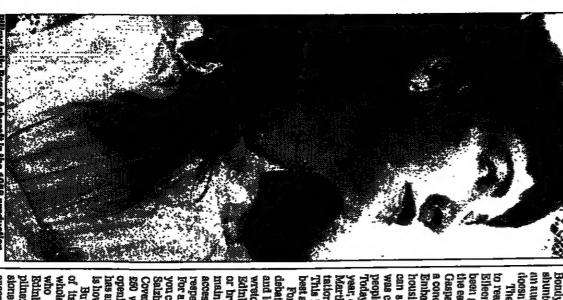
The 50th festival

promises to be a

golden one. Comedian Dave

* page 3 50 years of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe". In fact, everything has changed. In 1947, six theatro companies created an unofficial Fringe: this year there will be 646 groups, covering all the arts, putting on a total of 1,238 shows. In 1947, the Fringe was also driven by a need to explore the Scottish drama absent from the main Festival: now it is an international bonanza. But the biggest change has come in its char-

appen within it
I be haunting th
it productions fo
if dipping into th
indiction, Theatr



It wasn't ever thus. If not went to Edinburgh in 1960, as both paying customer and student critic, and remember the Fringe as both manageable and exploratory I saw a couple of Oxford theatre companies doing Schiller's Wallenstein, directed by Ken Loach and adapted by Francis Hope, and a little-known French play by Georges Schehade called Vasco, the Tower Theatre in a stunning version of The Back, the Tower Theatre in a stunning version of The Back, the Tower Theatre in a stunning version of The Back, the Tower Theatre in the students offering Tennessee Williams's rarely-seen Summer and Smoke. No-one was afraid of length, intervals or losing the audience to another show round the corner. Today there is both much more uniformity — six versions of Macbeth, four of Johh Godber's Bouncers, three each of Hamlet, in The Little Shop of Horrors and Thritife — and a declaration of the state of the s

bably a pipe-dream. But how estival itself change in the ill aware of the need to do ses: not so much their num-"I was aware of two things,"

self-respecting

every

explains why Gorman, right,

comic will

in audionics of dozing pensioners. I hope the same rate lossn't await Stein's Uncle Venya this year.

The Festival also needs, as McMaster is well aware, o reach out beyond the cognoscenti. In fact, reading of reach out beyond the cognoscenti. In fact, reading of reach out beyond the intitative of artists, from the interestive of artists, from the early years. In 1958, for instance, Yehudi Menulin, laspar Cassedo and Louis Kentner gave, without fee, concert for 1600, including 600 schoolchildren, in the Embassy Cheena at Pilton in the midst of a large rousing-estate. As Menuhin wrote to the Scoteman, "I san say with complete assurance that the audience was composed overwholmingly of extremely musical people who had never set in a concert hall before". Today, Mark Morris continues that tradition; and this year, even before the Festival began, a member of the Martha Graham Dance Company performed Lamenter of the festival began, a member of the

you can get to see an opera for a futto whist it costs at Covent Garden. On the lowest level, an investment of £50 would get you into ten major svents. With the opening of the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh also now has an unmatched variety of venues: the only problem is how to programme them for 12 months of the year. But the real advantage of Edinburgh is that, because of its eclecticism, it enables you to experience the whole spectrum of the arts. It was John Drummond who said that there was no point in coming to Edinburgh just to pursue one's own particular discipline; you have to sample the whole thing. That impeasioned exhortation applies both to critics and to audiences. My own Edinburgh memories are made up not just of theatre productions but of Adventures in Motion Pictures' and the Mark Morris Company's Irreverent versions of The Nutcracker, of Lepage's diluebeard's Castie, of Anne Evans singing, sublimely, and premature. Under McMaster, it has become once ugain not just a wide-ranging cultural event but a genuine learning experience. In the next millennium, I foresee real problems in reconciling the just claims of the reart in the reart in past of the problems in reconciling the pust claims of the reart in the reart in the reart in the terractions of the past of

then there's the new stuff Buñuel, Welles, Cocteau.

complex scheme of colour coding.
To judge by the timetable in vibrant orange, red, green and purple, this year's film festival will be varied, to say the least. If you find black and white more restful, there's a selection of classics from 1947. To say this is one of the year's top attractions is no slur on the new stuff; but with the likes of Ozu, Buñuel, Welles and Cocteau on the list, you'd be forgiven for indulging in a spot of time travel. Still, the here and now looks prefty tempting. The opening and closing attractions span the sublime and the ridiculous, though it's anyone's guess which is which—Sean Connery digitally programmed into a scaly monster in Dragonheart, or a psychoanalytical romance between William Hurt and Juliette Binoche, in Chanfal Akerman's A Couch in New York. There's another starry list of Scene by Scene sessions, with huminaries talking you through their work. The line-up includes master cinematographers Henri Alekan and Jack Cardiff, Teresa Wright on working with Hitchcock and Wyler, and—most likely to set the fur flying—David Cronenberg revisions of the controversial

Of the new films, a rich British crop includes the uncompromising anti-heritage movie Jude; Peter Greenaway's The Pillow Book; and Trojan Eddie, the new film by local favourite Gillies Mackingon. gue from left-fielder Andrew
Kiting, and Small Time, by Nottinglam DIY merchant Shane Meadws. The programme notes use the
read word "Tarantinoesque", but
he Meadows work I've seen is
nore like a collision between Mike
eigh and Black Grape.

Leigh and Black Grape.

I'll be cowering in the stalls during The Search for Eric Campbell, a documentary about the bushybrowed bully of the Chaplin films; more silent-era chills come in Lon Chaney's original Phantom of the Opera, with Carl Davis behind the baton. Coach potatoes will flock to new US comedy Fitring With Disaster, featuring Mary Tyler Moore and Tea Leoni; pulpaholics will gobble up new spoof Plump Fiction; while this year's Australian discovery is Shirley Barreit's conedy Love Serenade.

What more do you want — sex?

Ever-rackless documentarist Nick

beration m the lairds

Canongate, £25 vns Scotland? Wightman

fainstream, £14.99 Clouston

Cramb

shows

Plus the be there,

that will be

the town the talk of

OTS generally feel sore bout the land. This is, readly, an atavistic itch, sople are aware how stinkles were largely populated low-cheeked refugees from ricultural reforms of the dight centuries. If it wasn't sep or the deer that chased off their ancestral turf, it

e MacGregors' time may be again. The endless talkat devolution from Westhas led naturally to specun how best to dynamite of the barriers interposed the Scot and the better nent of his or her homes ownership that so very landless, landless...

inuch of the country. Both these excellent books are a product of the zeitgeist, and both, in their different ways, provide plenty of ammunition for the future Scottish parliament's Committee for the Crushing of Lairds.

Andy Wightman is the statistics king. The tables in his beautifully designed book make enfhralling reading on their own. Who would have thought the Queen (Balmoral and Delnadamph) was only the seventh wealthlest landowner in Scotenid, her £450 million a cool £500 million behind the unknown distribution behind the unknown distribution behind the unknown distribution behind the unknown distribution behind the unknown distribution. The cone quence of this, Wightman argues, it is a gigantic breake on the physical, economic and spiritual regeneration of a vast area of the United Kingdom. The core point is that these 9,534,316 acres are governed by people who have only a very limited view of their usefulness; they are either a tax write-off, a speculation, a forest bank, a security for millions of tomorrow's pensioners or a playground for absurdly rich y people.

about economics, but they cannot fall to be depressed by the fact that agricultural land covers 73. per cent of Scotland yet contributes less than two per cent of GDR Wightman's solutions include the abolition of Scotland's suffocating feudal system of property ownership, a ban on private trusts owning land if they are not primarily interested in developing its full potential, and an insistence that lamfowmers actually reside on their land. Conservationists (330,000 acres) get short shrift from the ice-hearted Wightman. He views them as a kind of upmarket undertakers to the death of rural Scotland.

This may jar slightly with Ausian Cramb, whose cry of despair is directed chiefly at the reckless landowers' degradation of ter zone. The McMickey Mouse valuations, of course, make it impossible for natives to exploit their principal local resource.

Readers may not know much about accordance but the

has twice the land area of Norway's Hordaland province, yet only half the population.

Cramb scoids his way round a succession of queer and shivery ancestral homes, discovering, for example, that Lochiel estate (90,000 acres) la too poor to provide overwintering facilities for its tenant farmers, and that Atholl estate (130,000 acres) only makes money on its caravan park and castle visitors.

In passing was most some acress.

the conserving National Trust for Scotland.

As with Wightman, Cramb's heroes are the 120-odd partners in the Assynt Crofters' Trust. The Sutherland pioneers paid a bunk rupt Swedish company £300.000 for their 21,000 acre North Assynt a estate in 1993. Since then they have miraculously succeeded in developing a model, outward-looking community which beasts, smong other things, an angling schwil and a resident computer company transplanted from Liverpool.

Liberation comes with a price tag, though. In Lochinver once i met a MacGregor who complained he now has to pay £5 to fish in kelist where he used to posch for free.

suggested that it did. Etton is variously suide and kind to both sides of the debate in nearly equal measure. The target for his anger is more general: what he sees as an andende American tendency to transfer responsibility to someone blac. The adulterer who declares himself a sex addict and checks into a clinic. The child who kills both parents and blames sexual abuse in childhood. The median point the finger at the politicians: the politicians accuse the median point the fine-maker indicts society. "Nobody gets blamed for anything in this country." Bruce laments at gun-point. "Nothing is anybody's fault."

You can easily imagine those points being made in some non-fiction tract called "Blameless Nation". But what's most impressive about Popcorn is its Integration of story and thought. The plattwists detonate the marrid dilemmas, the commentary is in the coinedy if Elion himself needs to take the blame for anything here it's that his American clialogue sometimes comes out Londonishthis as recognisably an Englishman's billous vision of America as Evelyn Waugh's The Loved One but this spirited and Intelligent book about whether entertainment can engender imitation cortainly leaves you hoping for a spate of copycat novels from Elton.



Bringing home a stag on the North Harris Retate, lale of Harris

Books 9

a no-blame culture

Elton

Simon & Schuster,

IERE is an inevitable suspi-tion of novelists already stablished as celebrities in fields. They are able to the traditional apprentice-f fiction and appeal to a nade readership. So one of appressive aspects of Ben terrific fourth novel is the ense that he has worked and d at the craft. Although his aree books were easy best-the seems to have comprer faults — sprawling , hectoring tone, fash-es — and set himself

in Hollywood — and takes on only one subject: the relationship between screen violence and street

one subject the relationship between screen violence and street violence.

Oliver Stone is currently being sued by the family of a murder victim who claim that the killer took his cue from the director's movies. Elton's fictional Oscarwinner, Bruce Delamitri — whose tronic, post-modernist splatter movies are an obvious homage to both Stone and Quentin Tarantino — suffers an audience reaction more cruel and terrible than any lawsuit. On the night that Bruce wins the Best Film statuette for his latest sardonic bloodbath, a pair of psychopathic mess-nurderers who can recite every line of his films break into the director's Malibuhome and take him hostage with assorted family and colleagues.

This inspired fictional premise is developed at three equally convincing levels: as a comedy, as a thriller and as a genuine moral debate. Given Elton's previous form as a comedian and co-writer of the Blackadder series, the jokes are the least surprising of these achievements. They are, though, very sharp, Bruce's Oscar acceptance speech — "I stand here on the stand of the previous of the proposition of the propo

legs of fire you are the wind beneath my wings and I flap for you . . . "— is a fine parody of that notoriously vapid rhetorical form. The extracts from Bruce's film — in which suspiciously literate killers deconstruct figures of speech between slayings — also come from a recognisable chematic reservoir. Pressed by a bimbo television presenter on whether viewers imitate what they see, Bruce smartly repiles that if this were true all her own viewers The really startling aspect of the book, however, is its stance. If the novel had, in the modern American fashion, first been attributed to "Anonymous", the spot-the author pieces would surely have fingered Richard Littlejohn or Paul Johnson rather than this established jester of the Left. There are grouches about "self-righteous feminism, the modern equivalent of hiding behind a woman's petticasts", while the young are spikily the left of the left.

crete and their brain sucked out along with their cellulite".

More surprising is the book's tight plotting. The star of stand-up has contrived a stand-off of real tension, in which Bruce's kidnappers, Wayne and Scout, broadcast live on every channel in America.

The killers, children of the TV age, have asked for a direct feed from the ratings computer, so that they can watch their fame inflate second by second. The story takes a flendish final twist, which it would be spiteful to reveal, other than to say that the American people are asked to make a collective sacrifice to save the lives of the hostages. This sacrifice involves such a deeply enshrined modern American right — the right to voyeurism — that they prove unable to make it.

1

of the Motor Show'

perange and percent and the percent word. Well let me introduce you to its even ugiler consins, whom it keeps locked in the cellar for fear of embarrassment:
network and schmooze.
Schmoozing: being politie to someone who buys me a drink (on their ample expense account) in the hope that they will one day want to employ me, it might sound shallow. But it's too easy to sneer. Because to be honest with you, I'd happily be polite to someone who buys me a drink in the, more modest, hope that they will one day want to buy no another. I can't see what's wrong with reising my sights a lith.

could I wouldn't be in Edinburgh. I'd be on holiday. Don't get me wrong I do enjoy the fastival, but I'm going there because I think it might just holp to further my career. There. I've said it. I feel better now it's out in the open. I don't think I'm supposed to have told you that. I'm supposed to taking a show up because I love taking a show up because I love

a spot of Botho Theatre

|Two Roberts and Where else would you see Mark Morris in an opera?

n: The Edinburgh

mpattenest.
The hubbub of recase gone on for centuries that be nothing here for it either side to censure the English word "respy from the Latin for "to law been putting down the other back is to recognise a fock that and have been parting down the other back is to recognise a factories.

ings. In our century, oct H D, wife of Rich on, spoke out against rithlessness and arriblessness and arriblessness and arriblessness and arriblessness and arriblessness and arribles between the middle of can't face her becan of can't face her becan ste her looks in Hacla save been able to say it halmed the Russlan wr. Sevetayeva, 'Don't loo urning was... the resident be blindness of her looks in halmed the hilmens of her looks in the resident wr.

knew what it takes to readerworld" of rock "roll.

an artist, she an artist. "She's an artist, she don't look back."

Orpheus, though, did not have everything he needed. He so missed Eurydice that he went down among the dead to bring he needed to bring he return journey because — against the orders of the underworld — he glanced back to check that she was following him up towards the light.

Orpheus has remained for more glanced back to check that she was following him up towards the light.

Orpheus has remained for more than two and a helf thousand years the exemplary singer-songwriter. It was Virgil who made Orpheus the make-believe, his myth has following turned by each eddy of him a failure — lovelorn, unhappy sampler of literary, bitton by a snake. He's left with the the

have been gripped by the myth of Orpheus. With a new production of Gluck's Orfeo on its way to Edinburgh,

Eric Griffiths explains why

Writers from Virgil to Salman Rushdie

le myt

Orpheus: a glance in time

the exemplary singer-songwitter

— the one who could, it seemed, charm all by playing on his lyre. Readily turned by each eddy of human make-believe, his myth has survived in hundreds of literary, musical and dramatic adaptations, from the 6th century BC to modern times. In Jean Cocteau's version, Orpheus musingly catches the fatal glimpse of Burydice in the rear-view mirror of a car.

There have been many other renditions, before and since: Gluck's Orfeo e Euridice, for instance—which Mark Morris will stage in a fortnight's time at the Edinburgh Festival — and Harrison Birt. wisile's The Mask of of Orpheus, recently resuscitated at the Royal Festival Hall. The latest climax of

ê

and the state of t

gryndd eagle ei a

e**dita** endan be budan g

Report when and

Property of the same of the same

The Quardian Friday Angust 2 1996

o Guardian Friday August 2 1996

ton of the league came the older, nore established orchestras, the Royal Philinarmonic Orchestras, the Royal Philinarmonic Orchestras, the Royal Philinarmonic Orchestra sture to change with 10/90 imbalance in both surveys.

Also low down in the listings came the orchestra still widely regarded as Britain's Blue Riband bunch, the London Symphony Orchestra. By May 1996 their renks had been penctrated by a mere 14 women out of a total workforce of just under a 100. But this, too, is changing, LSO managing director Cilve Gillinson now readily conceles that two out of every three new appointments in the LSO are going to women, and this quite simply reflects the standard of those applying for the jobs as and when they become available.

Sue Bottomley of Sinfonia 21 confirms the new reality. One of the new generation of freelance orchestras, Sinfonia 21 feeds on the pool of freelance players based in London, and this is now made up disproportionately of women; indeed, at one recent date it might as well have been a hen night. The blokes were almost out of it—apart from in the brass section, of course, Sull no change there.

So what's going on? Are we talking talent? As seems to be hinted over

might have a place in the music workforce. This change has seen gradual but perceptible acceleration. By March 1994, an ABO st voy revealed that of 30 orchestr polled, women already made a more than 80 per cent of the merbers in three Just two years lat 10 had now breached this water 10 had now breached the seen acceptance where the property of the pro

oloying a hume...

actor: Tying in with I

But if these advantages to women might be seen as bencilis deriving from a caring welfare system, there have also been Thatcherite markers implicated in the whole gender shift.

In common with Sinfonia 21, a number of the other high-acoring orchestras identified in the ABO survey pick up their players from the newly expanded freelance pool, the pool of "casual", self-employed workers. Obviously the flexibility of self-employment can be more attractive to women, particularly whore families and children are involved. The obverse, we are told, is the case with men, who value job security and normanont contracts

womankind advance of

stars are joined by a grou

the inexorable

Britain is all about The news from

***** Indispensable

**** Excellent

*** Good

** Medicere

* Appailing cd releases

0630-14336-2) (three CDs)

WITH the third instalment of Ton Koopman's massive project (some 60 discs altogether) to record all of Bach's surviving church and secular cantatas (Nos 54, 63, 165, 161, 162, 163 and 165) included here complete the survey of those Bach wrote up to 1717, when he left the Weimar court to work first in Cöthen and then from 1723 in Lehnzig; Nos 22 and 23, also here, were the pieces that served as his audition for the Lehnzig job. Despite their shared origins the selection is superbly varied, while the performances by Koopman and his band of light-voiced, effortlessly stylish singers, with the soprano Barbara Schlick and the tenor Andreas Scholl outstanding, here the same perfect balance of warmth and energy that characterised the provious volumes. (AC)

★★★★ £12.99 soncavallo: Pagliacci avarotti/ Freni/ Wixell/ National hilhar monic/ Patanacuté becca 444 392-2)

agni: Cavalleria Rusticana ly/Pavarotti/Cappuccilii/ nal Philharmonic/Govazzeni

*** £12.99

The Horseman Sallinen/Valjakka/Erkkila/Välkki/Savonlinna Classical CD of the week: Sallinen

Music 7

ıra/Söderblom ılandia FACD 101) (two CDs)

/Valjakka/Vitanen/ ational Opera/Kamu a 1576-51102-2) (two CDs)

is effective, in a doomy, brooding sort of way, the far north of the country and the work charts there's no doubt that The Red Line, composed their distillusion with the promises of the politicians in that first general election. Though the story is grim and uncompromising, the music is wonderfully well characterised, full of searingly vivid ideas, and Jorma Hymninen's performance of the crofter Topi on these diacs is merically powerful. There's no doubt The Red sclously rhetorical, though the story again has Line is the best place to begin with Sallinen.



Ŋ

our hair set in con- I support tensorably of violent I copycat novels from Elion.

THESE performances of the backneyed old *vertsmo* double bill are
self-recommending. They were
recorded in 1976 (Cav) and 1977
(Pag) when Luctano Pavarotti was
at the height of his powers, singling
with a freedom and relish for every
morsel of the text, with supporting
casts (Julia Varady compelling as
Saniuzza in Cav) that match his
commitment, and conductors who
have every expressive twist of
these scores at the tips of their
batons. Only Decca's cynical

This week's marketing qualifies the rapture.

These two performances appeared as a single set of three LPs in 1978; as a single set of three LPs in 1978; they are now repackaged on two separate full-price CDs, which for 20-year-old recordings is a bit steep. (AC)

gby/Ragin/Langridge/Finicy/ .yd/Ellis/Bedford/Dench .jllins Classics 14812)

Bach: Complete Cantatas Voi 3 Schlick/Von Magnus/Scholl/ Agnew/Mertens/Amsterdum Baroque Orchestra & Choir/ Koapman

example of Pears' own recurdings, with the camposer playing the planto in the first four (the filth, The Death Of Saint Narcissus, is written for tenor and horp) inevitably hangs over uny other singer who attempts them. Phillip Langridge has alweady demonstrated in opera and song cycle that he can remake the tradition of Britten interpretation, and he does so most convincingly again, accompanied by Steuart Bedford and abetted by the mezzo Jean Rigby in Canticle II, Abraham And Isaac, and the counter tenor Derek Lee Rigth and barttone Gerald Finley in Canticle IV, a setting of Ellor's Journey Of The Magi. The performance of the third canticle, Still Falls The Holn, here forms part of a strange Edith Silwell sequence of readings (by Judi Deach) and three other little songs that Britten put together when the poet visited Aldeburgh in 1955, and which was never performed again during his lifetime. If a curiosity rather than a real discovery, though the canticle itself is a worderfully inventors niezo of

secret talks with Syria on

step towards peace with Da-mascus, an Israeli newspaper reported yesterday.

The meeting, at the request of Syria, took place shortly before the Israeli prime minister visited the United States on July 8, the daily Ha'aretz

two sides were feeling out each other's positions and there had been movement in exploratory contacts.

no immediate comment.

end to aggression" But President Elias Hrawl of Lebanon said in Beirut that his country opposed a "Leba-non-first" option and favoured a comprehensive peace agreement - AP Jordan's King Hussein will

his first visit since Amman's 1994 peace treaty with Israel

Leadership quarrels shake ANC

David Beresford

OUTH Africa's African National Congress is being shaken by the most serious leadership squabbles since it came to power in the 1994 majority

An extraordinary attack was made on its national leadership yesterday by a man recently sacked from the government for implicating an ANC cabinet minister in a seven-year-old bribery

the former deputy minister of the environment and tourism, suggested that the ANC was in the pocket of the controversial casino boss Sol Kerzner, who is at the centre of the

The row coincides with moves to dismiss an important regional premier, Patrick Lekota, in a provincial ANC power struggle which could have national repercussions. Gen Holomiss launched his attack on the ANC leadership in response to the announcement that he is to face "charges" at a forthcoming

disciplinary hearing. He is being accused of "hringing the ANC into disrepute" by alleging to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission - investigating political crimes of the apartheid era that the present minister of public enterprises, Stella Sig-cau, shared in a R2 million bribe Mr Kerzner paid to a bantustan leader in the 1980s for gambling rights in the

Transket Gen Holomisa told a Johannesburg press conference that Mr Kerzner had helped to fi-



Zinzi Mandela and Thabo Mbeki both enjoyed favours from Casino boss Sol Kerzner (right)

position

Megawati Sukarnoputri that she may be charged with sub-

version for inciting the riots

last weekend which produced

the country's worst violence in more than 20 years

The police say they are waiting for the necessary per-mission from President Su-

parliament to call in Megawati and her PDI allies.

Sharply escalating the government's campaign against Megawati, ousted as leader of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) by a military-sponsored congress in June,

he justice minister, Oetoje Oesman, said yesterday: "The punishment that could be

meted out to the PDI officials

is as hefty as that to the people who rioted."

ous offence under Indonesian

law, carries a maximum sen The charge levelled at Megawati and her allies is

that they were responsible for

staged in front of the PDI's Ja-

karta headquarters after she was relieved of the PDI

Her supporters used the forum to keep up a constant barrage of speeches demand-

ing more democracy, criticis-

ing the government — and in-

The forum only ended when police stormed the PDI head-quarters last weekend, trig-

ering riots in which at least

three people died and 34

forces have arrested more

than 230 people, and Oes

gearing up for a general

eadership.

furiating Subarto.

Subversion, the most seri-



nance the ANC's 1994 election campaign, and that it was well-known he had funded social events for ANC leaders, party of the deputy president. Thato Mbeki. He said the fact that Mr Kerzner had still not



pression that he was being protected by the ANC in return for favours. prosecuted for his adKerzner largesse to the ANC

— his funding of the high society wedding and honey daughter Zinzi.

He blamed Mr Mbeki for trying to have him expelled

It is understood that President Mandela made strenuous efforts recently to protect Gen Holomisa from possible ex-pulsion, with a series of franthe general's home at 3am --pleading with him to apologise to Ms Sigcau for the brib-ery allegation. Gen Holomisa refused.

There are fears in some ANC quarters that Mr Mbeki may also have a hand in the efforts to unseat Mr Lekota and that it might be part of a wider strategy by the deputy president to get his supporters into key positions in an-

the presidency when Mr Man- | was at one stage military dela retires. Mr Lekota has been em-

proiled in a long-running dispute with other ANC leaders in the Free State province, who have already managed to force him out of the provincial chairmanship of the party. The power struggle also involves corruption

Mr Lekota was one of the most respected leaders of the United Democratic Front effectively the internal wing of the ANC in the 1980s. Keeping an Afrikaans bible by his bedside, and taking a keen interest in rugby, he is credited with having done much to dispel possible tensions with the deeply conservative Afrikaners in the Free State.

Gen Holomisa, who received his military training in the South African defence force mitted bribery created the im- far more striking example of ticipation of his succession to in the apartheid years, and out their differences.

leader of the Transkei, is nevertheless extremely popular with rank and file members of the ANC. Something of a loose cannon politically, he has shown himself to be a master of untrigue. The row over the bribery al-

legations has also created a rift between Archbishop Dession and Mr Mandela. The commission criticised the misa, protesting that the gov-ernment was creating the impression that he was being dismissed for testifying. Mr Mandela promptly re-

buked the commission, accusing it of interfering in the presidential prerogative to hire and fire ministers. The commission said this week it was seeking a meeting with the ANC leadership to iron

News in brief

Colombian peasants defend cocaine crop

TENS of thousands of peasants staged protests across a vast jungle area of southern Colombia yesterday against the government's United States-backed drug crop eradication

The demonstrations, which the government of President Ernesto Samper insist are orchestrated by leftwing guerrillas and drug traffickers, have since spread to three other southern provinces. More than 50,000 people are blocking roads and suports and occupying small towns to protest against the

destruction of what they say is their only source of incom Meanwhile, the Franch president, Jacques Chirac, endorsed Mr Samper's efforts to fight cocaine production. Mr Samper, on a visit to Paris, said he had asked the European Union to maintain its aid for his crop substitution programme. Mr Chirac also said he was prepared add a £148 million bilateral loan, a Colombian official said. — *Reuter*, *Bogotá*.

Life for HIV rapists

THE Kenyan parliament has unamimously backed mandatory life imprisonment for HIV-infected rapists and envone found guilty of deliberately infecting victims with the virus.

MPs said on Wednesday that they were concerned about the rapid spread of Aids, and criticised courts for lenient sentences for rapists and sex offenders infected with HIV. An estimated 9.5 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are HIVpositive or have full blown Aids. — Reuser, Natrobl.

Neo-Nazis under scrutiny

FOUR French nec-Nazia were yesterday placed under formal investigation in connection with the desecration six years ago of St Jewish graves in Campentras, Provenou

The attack on May 10 1990 was followed by a series of police blunders, court actions and false arrests, and an outpouring of public emotion. Politicians across the spectrum were accused of manipulating the attack for their own ends. According to the police, the four men were arrested after

Yannick Garnier, aged 26, gave himself up on Tuesday in Avignon and named three accomplices. Mr Garnier said he and four other skinheads — one of whom has since died in a motorcycle accident — desecrated the graves to mark the unniversary of Hitler's birth. The men, linked to a farright group named as the French and European National Party (PNFE), also disinterred the body of an elderly Jewish man buried a fortnight earlier. — Alex Duvol Smith, Parts.

Feline flood warning TWO Swedish cats caused £30,000 worth of damage after flooding their owner's house while locked up in the bathroom. Their crestfallen owner, Roger Sjoberg, said he had come home to find the house flooded and two brightened cats atting on the shower

We normally lock them up in the bathroom to stop them wrecking the place while we're out," he told the tabloid news-paper Kvallsposten. — Reuter, Stockholm.



The first known Slamese twin tortoises, born a week ago at Israel's Hebrew University, may live but share too many organs to be separated

British spy row 'hurts Russia'

A MOSCOW diplomat accused of spying for Britain seriously damaged Russia's national interests, the country's top security official was quoted as saving yesterday by Itartass news agency. But Nikolai Kovalyov, director of the Federal Security Service, said the incident in May would "not affect our diplomatic rela-

tions with Great Britain".

In the cold-war-style row, Britain declared four Russian diplomais personae non graine in response to Moscow's expulsion of four British embassy staff. It accused them of links to Platon Obukhov, a second secretary in the foreign ministry and a thriller writer since charged with high treason. — Reader, Moscow.

Eck Cumming-Bruce in Jakarta HE Indonesian author! ties have warned the op-position leader

Jail threat to Megawati in Indonesian crackdown



Marines ber the way to the Jakarta court where Megawati Sukarnoputri has begun a case against the government late on Tuesday night has | self for a possible eruption of | tear gas protect the court, | allowed to choose the leaders | fails, Megawati's lawyers are

buildings were destroyed or Since then the security

other situation altogether." The toughness of the justice minister's message suggests man's threat reinforces the signs that security chiefs are either official disquiet or amcrackdown against the "com-munists" they blame for much of the violence. The detention of the labour barrassment at the legal chal-lenge initiated by Megawati's lawyers yesterday to reclaim the chairmanship of the PDI.

stirred little popular reaction further demonstrations, but it was a further indication in or out of Jakarta. It was a further indication of the sensitivity of the case But a diplomat said: "If huge security cordon around that the presiding judge, I Kethey moved against the central district court, Megawati, we would have an complete with army sharp-

shooters positioned on roof-tops and bridges. Several hundred troops and riot police, backed by armoured personnel carriers and fire engines, have been deployed at main road junc-tions and in sidestreets as

murder trial, was absent with "toothache".

To jears from Megawati's followers crammed into the court, two subordinate judges postponed the hearing until leader Muchtar Pakpahan Jakarta has been bracing it- police officers armed with

August 22.
Megawati is using the court

erate shelling of a UN base at Qana and the villagers shel-

tering there; still less could it

see any moral equivalence with the "terror" coming

However disappointed it

was at the defeat of Shimon Peres, champion of Pax Amer-

icana, the Clinton administra-tion has been busy acclimatis

ing itself to the new Israel

from the other side.

is not the government which has the final say but the mem-

tioned political parties — and as such is mounting a chal-lenge unprecedented during Subarto's 31 years in power.

bers of the party," explained her faction's treasurer, Laksamana Sukardi.

Her chances of winning in Indonesia's courts are at best case to try to establish who is 50-50. But even if the case law".

destruction of the peace

and political grounds on which it properly belongs to

security ones which are merely derivative of it. And it

is absurd to fight Arab or Muslim terror without any

acknowledgement that there is an Israeli terror too.

It becomes a matter of obvi-ous self-interest when, on is-

rael's behalf, the US expects

the Europeans to go along with sanctions, damaging to commerce, in the service of a

political agenda on which

they disagree anyway. Europe balked at doing that filing several hundred more suits against participants in These will not only provide a focus for her supporters but could take two years or more to grind through the high court and the court of appeal. In the process, Sukardi be-lieves, they will serve as "a sort of referendum on

whether we should live in a

state of power or a state of

Arabs look to Europe to break peace impasse Israeli PM 'in



Other worlds

David Hirst

WO weeks ago, Germany brokered a deal under which Hizbullah exed the bodies of two Is raeli soldiers killed in Lebanon for those of 123 of its fighters. It was a minor affair,

spoke of "the desire in the region" for them "to get involved more heavily in politi-cal negotiations, and for the an Union as a whole to

do the same". had found much more signifiearlier. When Israel launched its Grapes of Wrath assault on Lebanon, France launched its diplomacy in years. The for-eign minister, Hervé de Charette went to the region and competed with his American

traditional United States preserve annoyed not just Israel and the US, but even some of France's European partners. especially Britain. But Mr De Charette — who was in Algeria yesterday meeting President Lamine Zeroual - was marking no real improvement in relations between all the parties involved — Iran.

France was now a "major ac-Syria, Israel, Lebanon and tor" in the Middle East and

3.

Hizbullah. But the Germans | would be launching new at | themselves, the US found | that US policy will lead to the saw it as a breakthrough, and | tempts to invigorate the | nothing wrong with the delib | destruction of the peace

"peace process".

The "peace process" is of course the core issue on which any distinctive European policy for the Middle East would necessarily focus. It was part of a trend which | For too long Europe has basically left it to the US to shape the West's higher strategies in the region. The Arabs, es-sentially out of abject weakness, have connived in this, boldest piece of Middle East thinking that the more they prime minister ever since. It diplomacy in years. The for- flattered the US, the more of blithely ignores the fact that

counterpart, Warren Christo-pher, in negotiating a trucs. This encroachment on a

The US is more partisan than ever. Clinton is a totally dishonest broker

likely to be. But its effect has been the opposite — merely hastening the relentless "Zionisation" of American politics. The US has become more partisan than ever, secure in the knowledge that weak Arab governments will never penalise it. President Clinton, the culmination of this trend. barely has a Middle East policy at all, other than swallowing what Israel wants. He is a

totally dishonest broker. America's response to two recent events — Grapes of Wrath and the electoral victory of Binyamin Netanyahu - swept away the last Arab doubts about that.

Definitions of terrorism and how to combat it are now a key yardstick of partisan-ship in the Middle East. Yet in flagrant contrast to the Ilnited Nations, Amnesty International, and just about Middle East policy-making, everyone except the Israelis the more obvious it becomes the obvious candidate.

"honest broker" it was | just about all he says and does - from his rejection of "land-for-peace" to his appointment of the appalling Ariel Sharon — is almost as much an affront to the US and its (former) understanding of the peace process as it is to the Arabs. Washington greets Mr Netanyahu like a conquering hero even as its former hero, Mr Peres, joins the Arabs in prophesying the disasters Mr Netanyahu wiii cause.

It is mere logic that, in their weakness, the Arabs should at last begin to look seriously to Europe as a counterweight to the US. Elementary selfrespect and self-interest command that Europe should

with its weight in world affairs, its geographic proximity to and historical association with the Arabs, to accept transatlantic affinities, is gothe virtual US monopoly of ing to lead; nor can Germany,

in Paris this week. But it is not enough. With Mr Clinton's acquiescence in the ag-gressive, expansionist Zionism Mr Netanyahu embodies, Europe needs to develop a Middle East policy which systematically challenges that of the US on the moral and political fundamentals. Unlike the US, the EU did condemn the Qana massacre. And in a formal statement it echoed the demand of the

recent Arab summit that, for the peace process to continue. Israeli must return to the key principles — "land for peace" and self-determination for the Palestinians - which Mr Netanyahu has repudiated. It is demeaning for Europe,

But the evolution of a common European policy is a halting process. It is clearly not one that Britain, with its with its guilty past. France is

Lebanon'

For Israel and the US, the "war on terror" is but a way of transferring the Arab-Is-raeli struggle from the moral Delina Linzar in Jurusalem

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU has secretly met a Syrian envoy in Jerusalem to discuss a possible Israeli troop pullout from Lebanon as a first

reported. It said only Mr Ne-tanyahu and two of his advi-A source who spoke on condition of anonymity said the

Mr Netanyahu's media adviser, David Bar Illan, dismissed the report, however.
"We deny it it didn't hap-pen," he said. Damascus had

In remarks published in Syrian newspapers yesterday President Hafez al-Assad vowed to continue working towards a "just and comprehensive peace that puts an

travel to Syria tomorrow on

The jokes are very sharp. Bruce's Oscar acceptance speech - "I stand here on legs of fire . . . you are the wind beneath me wings and I flap for you . . ." -- is a fine parody of that notoriously vapid rhetorical form. Mark Lawson on Ben Elton's Popcorn

Statistics for slaughter

Yet again we are deceived about what we eat

announcement that one in every hundred calves born to BSE-infected cows will inherit the disease raises important questions about the effectiveness of the measures being taken to eradicate it. At worst, the findings make a nonsense of everything that the Government has done so far. Either way, they are a reminder that BSE remains a continuing scourge of our meat and not some trick got up by foreigners to annoy the British. In any event, the Ministry of Agriculture's announcement of the new findings yesterday was extraordinarily blasé.

According to MAFF, the measures already taken against BSE acknowledged the theoretical possibility of maternal transmission of the disease. There is therefore, MAFF concludes, no need to take any new measures, because the old ones will sweep up any cases from this new source. But the reasoning here is tendentious, and perhaps seriously faulty. It rests upon the accuracy of MAFF's calculation that only one in a hundred calves born to BSE cows is affected. If vertical transmission is sufficiently rare to be certainly wiped out by the slaughter programme now in force then MAFF is in the clear. But if it turns out to be more common, then MAFF's assumption oratory, even though the findings must could soon be seriously awry and the predicted timetable for eradication, at about the time ministers were anspeculative enough already, could

lengthen substantially. In any event, the admission at this stage of cow-to-calf transmission of BSE is a major indictment of the way in the Commons and waited until Parliawhich our scientists have conducted their research into this extensive disease. BSE has been known about for a decade, but throughout that time officials have adamantly denied that it could be transmitted from dams to interest primarily of producers and of calves. Only a week ago, on July 24, deceiving the public about matters Douglas Hogg repeated the old ortho- vitally affecting the food we eat.

AT THE very least, the Government's | doxy that feed was overwhelmingly the key to BSE. Now, as though from nowhere, we are presented with an authoritative statement that it not only can be transmitted by birth, but also that it is. Note the words in the MAFF announcement yesterday. "One per cent of calves born to cows which die of BSE will themselves die of BSE caught from their mothers". Not "may die" but "will die". And not such a remote certainty either. One in a hundred means a lot of inherited BSE - many hundreds and perhaps some thousands of cases - and there is no authoritative explanation of why the disease is inherited in some cases and not in others. It is barely credible that this was not

known until now. It is not just the substance of yesterday's announcement which is disturbing, but the disgraceful way it was made. Yesterday's press release shows that the findings were circulated to a meeting of the Government's own Spon-giform Encephalopathy Advisory Com-mittee on July 19. Yet at no time either in agriculture question time in the Commons on July 18 or in the debate on the accelerated slaughter programme on July 24, did any government minister make any reference whatever to the research at the Central Veterinary Labat about the time ministers were answering questions on July 18 — and certainly by the time of the debate six days later. The suspicion is that Douglas Hogg withheld the information from ment had gone away for the summer before releasing it in a form which ensured the minimum public accountability. Once again, agriculture ministers stand accused of acting in the

For New Deal, read raw deal

Clinton's welfare measures will hit poor Americans hard

presidential campaign to "end welfare I reduce their own budgets too. There is as we know it" is turning out to be all | no mandatory provision for poor famtoo true. As the next election ap- liles whose entitlement, under the new proaches he has bowed to a Republican Congress, signing a bill which abolishes the federal safety net set up after the Depression to protect those most at risk. Now the burden shifts from Washington to the state governments some of whom will seize the chance to cut their own welfare programmes further. Bizarrely, the President agrees that the bill contains "serious flaws". He claims to have huddled for two and a half hours on Wednesday with members of his cabinet in an agony of indecision before deciding to sign — against the opposition of his Secretary for Health and Human Services. He describes this meeting as being "a very moving thing". The people most likely to be moved, by rage or despair, are those who will suffer as a result.

The original thrust of Mr Clinton's campaign proposal four years ago was to provide new jobs for many of those out of work and funds to enable them to be trained, so that the huge federal budget could be cut as "welfare checks were replaced with paychecks." But the bill which has now been passed cuts the welfare without guaranteeing the workfare. A progressive state such as Wisconsin may continue with its own innovative scheme while others choose not to do so. A few conscientious states may compensate for reduced federal welfare is not emulated in our own approaching funding. Others such as California are election by any admirers over here.

BILL CLINTON's promise in the 1992 | already welcoming the chance to rules which impose time limits on benefit, expires. Not surprisingly, New York City's Mayor Rudolph Giuliani — although a Republican -- has been lobbying for weeks against the bill which will further tax his already overloaded budget. Those who have run out of benefit in states with an anti-welfare philosophy will simply migrate to those which continue to provide some support. The big urban centres will become even more burdened than before. These fundamental omissions in the new system are compounded by the punitive cuts which it contains. The food stamp programme has been been ripped apart and disabled children and poor immigrants will suffer serious losses of entitlement. Mr Clinton has said he will work for reversal of some of these cuts after he has signed the bill: his chances of success with a victorious congress will

> Mr Clinton has argued that the bill is at least less bad than before: it is no longer linked to cuts in Medicare and represents a "real step forward." What it really represents, as the Washington Post said yesterday, is "political expediency and opportunism," with the president seeking to neutralise Bob Dole's anti-welfare pitch to the electors. If this is the Clinton model, we can only hope

be even lower than before.

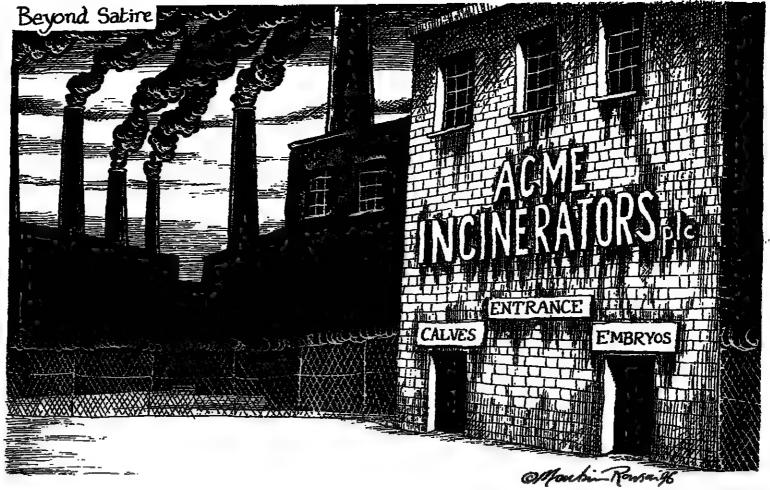
Brent into Willesden won't go

The answer is simple: make them two boroughs again

borough of Brent may shortly be struck from municipal directories. The council voted this week to consider the case for a change. The marriage of Willesden with Wembley which constituted Brent would continue as before, but a new name would be found: "Wembley & Willesden", perhaps. This, proponents suggest, could lift the blight which has settled on Brent over the past two decades, as "barmy Brent" when Labour were in and "Bent" once the Tories took over. Yet however unpopular locally. Brent is far from being the silliest name to emerge from the changes of the sixties and seventies. It was neither a dredged-up relic, like Haringey, or a twee piece of fancy like Waverley or Three Rivers. It was certainly to be preferred to the proffered both believe that Brent should go back portmanteau solution, Wemblesden.

The tidy-minded no doubt favoured

IF LOCAL people agree, the London | thanks to the stadium, everyone knows where Wembley is, which cannot be said of Willesden. But such theories mistake an important truth about local loyalties. For many, there's nowhere quite as repellent as the suburb next door. In that context, changing the name to Wembley and Willesden might make their union even less stable, rather than more. When Herefordshire was forced to cohabit with Worcestershire, both parties retained their names, rather than settling for Worcesford or Herecester, or some PR wheeze like Elgar County. But the partners never even began to bond with each other, and the Banham Committee wisely put them asunder. Rhodes Boyson (Con, Brent N) and Ken Livingstone (Lab, Brent E) may agree on little, but to being two separate boroughs. Understandably so. You can't unite chalk and calling the whole place Wembley, since, cheese just by inserting an ampersand.



Letters to the Editor

Tragic legacy of IVF

Interior, is, as Rugo Young suggests (Science that produces more death than life, Aug 1), a misfortune. But, as misfortunes go, it surely ranks low compared to, say, losing one's legs or sight or to the hopelessness of long-term ployment.

IVF, however, does not address infertility, but offers a "cure" for the socially constructed "problem" of childlessness. Childlessness can only be seen as a problem by reference to the preventive reference to the pervasive, normative image of the happy family unit which, increasingly, resembles the real lives of fewer and fewer people. It is this cultural insistence,

whether through the nudges and winks of family and friends, or the less subtle bedgerings of commerce and the media, that procreation is the necessary condition of fulfilment, citizenship and the good life which constructs the "des-peration" upon which the ped-dlers of IVF prey.

The remark on radio by Ian Craft, director of the London Gynaecology and Fertility clinic, that stored embryos could be used as a "replace-ment" for a child who dies caring parent as it is indicative of the emotional and ethical nightmare which opportunis-

Nutty answer to

YOUR cute back page pic-ture of a red squirrel was unfortunately used to deni-grate another mammal, the

grey squirrel. No doubt both

take their own existence seri-

ously and perhaps we should

not choose between them on looks — they might both win over large furless apes with small ears and eyes. Also the red squirrel's future is threat-

ened mainly by habitat de

struction by humans, which it also predates as a member of the British isles fauna (see

also otters, pine martens, pole-

cats.) Surely we need to take responsibility for our effect on

animal habitats rather than trying to blame another

eroplanes and fly theelf over

the Atlantic.

Lesley Hedges. 13 Sufton Street,

Birkby, Huddersfield HD2 21'D.

the red in peril

NFERTILITY, like any tic practitioners, abetted by a feeble regulatory regime, have this question, and the stress of tunction, is, as Hugo Young unleashed. Like IVF the luggests (Science that pro-Human Fertilisation and Embedows) bryo as a kind of child, and the bryology Authority is a failed experiment. It must do more than apply its rubber stamp and then sit on its hands. Root Cartwright. Chairman, British Organisa-

BM Box 5886. London WC1N 3XX.

UGO Young has identified a central moral question but his answer to it is mistaken. It is the best part of our natures that cries out in horror at the thought of the killing of these embryos. I was taught that between 30-

60 per cent of natural conceptions do not come to term. They are subject to miscarriage, often before the woman is aware of being pregnant. Do we regard this as a natural carnage? Does it feel like a tragedy? I don't think it does, even though the number of frozen embryos killed yesterday is a tiny fraction of the total who have died naturally in Britain over the past five years. The frozen embryos cannot

have sensed, or experienced, or expected anything. The unshakeable illusion of their must be as offensive to any moral worth happens because St Bernards Hospital Estate, we know they were created to become children, and we must Southall, choose what to do with them. | Middlesex UB2 4XB.

moral importance of its death taking precedence over the (very definite) suffering of the Infertile couple.

The moral dilemma is this. If

we can bear to overcome our instinctive horror at the thought of deliberately killing these embroys, what else can we bear to do? Christopher Pontac 80 Greyswood street.

UGO Young says that IVF should be stopped because it results in more death than life. His argument leads to the conclusion that we should only permit the reproductive method where the numbers of rejected embryos is the least One day that might rule out natural reproduction. Martin Earl London Na 8BJ

FIND it ironic that frozen embryos have been de-stroyed across the country using alcohol. Mother Nick Charles.

INDER THE BED

have joined forces and tagged

on to the Government's Joint Nature "Conservation" Com-

Nature "Conservation" Com-mittee for its proposed pro-gramme of slaughter.

Now they've suddenly "dis-covered" a convenient virus

the greys give to the reds What virus? Who discovered

it? When - and, if it exists

where's the evidence that reds get it from the greys, since

feeding habits now mean they

can rarely co-exist?

M Edwards.

Elvn Cottage. Chapel Hill,

Need or greed brings Lottery money to the capital?

hand out Lottery money? I thought there were quangos of the great and good whose job it was to do this. Jeannine Hunt. Cobblers Cottage. Chapel Lane. Adderbury OX173LY.

SINCE when has the Govfor the allocation of Lottery funds? First, the Prime Minis-ter with the Manchester centre rebuilding, then lan Sproat with our Olympic Team rebuilding. Is this the shape of things to come? Robert Parker. Heversham Cottage, Woodhouse Lane, Heversham Cumbria LA7 7EW.

HUGH Bayley MP says that figures extracted from the Lottery regulator, Oflot, prove that English regions and the east Midiands in particular are losing out to London. This confirms my research: in 1995 the level of grant handed out by the Millennium Commission and the National Lottery showed that Greater London was receiving £26.07 per head as compared to £3.21 per head for the east Midlands.

if this favouring of London and the south east is a question of these areas submitting bigger and better bids, then

WHY is it that John Major | Heritage should provide tech-and Mrs Bottomley can | nical assistance to assist regions in putting together bids which can compete with the higher profile projects. Perhaps, however, it is the case that an over-centralised government favours London and the south east. The problem with allocating funding without a strategic and co-or-dinated regional framework means that inevitably some of the needler areas are losers. Ariene McCarthy MEP. European Parliamentary Labour Party's Spokespersor for Regional Affairs, 16 North Road,

Glossop, Derbyshire SK13 9AS.

MANY of the projects receiving the largest sums from the Lottery are national organisations, such as the Royal Opera House. These projects create some jobs for Londoners but if one considers the money that has gone to local groups, London fares no better than the rest of the country.

The level of deprivation in parts of London is the worst in Britain. The demand for funds from voluntary and community groups demonstrates the capital's need, not its greed. Stephen O'Brien.

Chief Executive, London First. Christine Holloway. Director, London Voluntary Service Council. 156 Holloway Road. the Department of National London N7 4PA.

Learning shorthand on the job

ers off the streets and into the prospect of a better job, could not the brothels run secretarial courses alongside their principal business? I understand that shorthand and typ-ing lessons were provided by the Pam Chapman Drama School in Birmingham in the 1960s, thereby providing a safety net for those entering an equally hazardous profession. Mary-Rose Benton. 48 Windermere Way, Stourport on Severn. Worcester DY13 8QJ.

OUR Leader (Old profes-I ston: new thinking?, July 30) asks how society can ac-commodate prostitution while minimising its associated problems. Here in Manchester, and in many other British cities, one potential solution already exists.

The number of "saunas" and "health clubs" has mushroomed in the past few years. These places tend to be found These places tend to be found Hither Green, in commercial rather than res-

[N order to get the sex work- | idential locations. They advertise discreet entrances at the rear of the premises. Judging by their proliferation and the lack of attention they receive from the police one can only assume that they are tolerated as brothels in all but name. Can the stamp of legality really be so dreadful?

> SO the Amsterdam red light district represents a "civilised" alternative to the pres ent UK situation concerning brothels (Letters, July 31). Is this the same place where women from Eastern Europe are coerced into working as prostitutes after being tricked into leaving their homes on the promise of conventional jobs and then having their

Mike Farish. 15 Northbrook Road.

passports stolen?

55 Beanfields

Worsley M28 2PJ.

The gradual greening of Labour |

trying to blame another species, the grey squirrel, which did not invent ships or

to the Party's wider commit-ment. The Road To The Mani-festo is indeed thin on environ-mental pledges. However the Environmental Policy Com-mission. mission — a senior, joint Shadow Cabinet/National Executive Committee forum meets regularly to evaluate and improve Labour's detailed policy statements from an environmental perspective. The Environmental Protection portfolio has been upgraded with the restoration of a desig nated spokesperson of Shadov Cabinet status. Joan Ruddoc continues to work behind the scenes preparing the details of Labour's environmental pro-gramme for government. And underpinning it all is the policy statement. In Trust For Tomorrow, much the most detailed and comprehensive environmental statement from any of the main parties, and described by Jonathon Porritt (no friend of Labour he) as genuinely radical stuff and "a jewel of a policy document". liament's Committee on the In SERA we made no secret of Environment. Public Health the fact that we weren't and Consumer Protection. thrilled with The Road To The

UGO Young has a point in criticising on environmental grounds Labour's latest polthere isn't — we know that Labour has gone furthest to

GREY squirrels, the astute residents of city parks, suburban gardens and wood-lands are to be fed food laced

with rat poison so they haem-

orrhage to death. Or shot, or rather fatally wounded since their speed of movement makes a clean kill a rarity.

We have killed off red squir-

Now the Forestry Commis

sion and other timber produc-ers (with their vested interest

in getting the little grey "pests" out of their commercial forests)

trees they can feed from.

Hugh Raven. Advisor to the Environmental Policy Commission The Socialist Environment and Resources Association, London N4 3HQ.

HUGO Young talks about agenda as though Europe did not exist. Standards of air quality, of water quality, the framework for much of waste manage ment and policy on dangerous chemicals are substantially the

affair of the EU these days.
For many years now the
Labour Party in Brussels has played a leading part in rais-ing environment standards and in linking environmental protection to areas of policy such as energy, transport, agri-culture and industry. Chairman, The European Par-

Ken Collins MEP. 11 Stuarton Park. Manifesto. But so long as East Kilbride G74 4LA.

Lulu's life Lenin's death

WOULD have thought Hello! was a more suitable place for Lulu's Diary, (G2, July 31). Was I the only one not to find funny the anecdote about the TWA plane's wreckage polluting the beach of her planned holidays? How generous this modern Snow White to send her little protegé some leggings because she also has the right to look good. She regretted that some people think "you can't be pretty and clever at the same time". With such articles, no Stéphanie Duverger.

5 Fassett Road, Kineston. Surrey KT1 2TD.

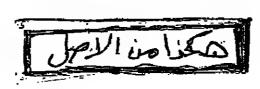
AD Lenin revealed the New Economic Policy to the 10th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party in March 1924 (Wheen's World, July 31) its memebers would indeed have been "astroniched". The have been "astonished". The 13th Congress had recently taken place and Lenin himself had died on 24th January. Councillor Sir Jeremy Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BJ.

A Country Diary

mer care for the flock, now that a dip is no longer manda-tory, is more a case of inspection and treatment. Our Herdwicks seem a generally trouble-free breed. They are less liable to minor ovine complaints than the Black Welsh or the Jacobs that we have had in earlier years. The only real disadvantage is, since they are like clones, identify-ing individuals. No developed breed lambs with the ease of the primitives-Soays, with strike A blow fly lays its eggs either in a cut or wound or in dung soiling the tail of a sheep

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Sum- | and, if you are not watchful, in a very short time the sheep is being literally eaten alive by a swarming mass of bloated maggots which burrow into the flesh. So the best treatment is prevention and is supplied by a compound called Vetrazine which is sprayed in a trail down the spine of the animal and spreads laterally to provide protection for a six week period. The lambs were done when the ewes were sheared but both groups were the primitives-Soays, with lambs on their feet almost as they hit the ground. I do not miss a summer dip. Oressing up in the necessary protective gear to prevent the inhalation of spray, or skin contact with nasty compounds related to toxic nerve gases is no pleasure in warm weather. But, some careful shepherding is necessary to get through the months of summer heat which can bring problems to the flock. The nastiest of all, and it due in late July so we penned flock. The nastiest of all, and it always hits the best looking fat lambs in the flock, is fly ing the mouth open for a quick shot down the throat is my task in this procedure.

COLIN LUCKHURST



Diary

Matthew Norman

ONFUSION surrounds the spiritual journey of Margaret Thatcher. Previously known as a less than fanatical Methodist, the Baronness has recently been noted in devout prayer at the Chapel Royal in St James's Palace (the Duchess of Kent was a regular there before moving to Rome). A leading theologian describes the chapel as "the ecclesiastical equiva-lent of skunk . . . they think they can handle it, but it leads to something strouger, and soon only the strongest incense will do" Inevitably, questions will be raised about Lady Thatcher. Perhaps under-standably, Cardinal Basil Hume is playing things close to his chest for the moment. "Is this a silly season bit?" he asked yesterday. "That's just rumour and gossip." Lady Thatcher's office was similarly opaque, saying: "She wouldn't wish to comment on her religious affiliations at the moment." Undeniable, however, is the voguishness of Catholicism, and especially among the fash-ionable right. Telegraph editor Chas Moore, Environment Secretary Little GumGum and prison fiend made recent, ostentatious and rational Paul Johnso remains among the world's most voluble Papists. He has worked tirelessly to convert his new idol Mr Tony Blair. Surely he isn't about to pull off a sensa-

for the grey squirrel.
Following reports that
they are being culled to save their red cousins from extinction, we rang Lord Wyatt of Weeford at his Tuscan holiday home. In February, the creator of the 1976 classic The Exploits Of Mr Saucy Squirrel told the Lords in a debate that the grey "does no harm to the trees or the birds in my garden". When we rang yesterport. Woody adopted an Italian accent and claimed to be out. This was a ruse, for when we rang back soon after, affecting a far plum-mier voice, he instantly admitted to his true identity. Alas, a poor line cut us off, but we hope to get to the contretemps next week.

tional win double, by taking

EHESE are dread days

his former idol to Rome?

WO contenders emerge in the quest for the August Book of the Diary, "John Motson's perfootball season". On the grounds that this may prove dangerously exciting, also being considered is A Locoman's Log, 1937-85, by Bill Allcock, "a 224-page illus-trated book of recollections and anecdotes about Bill's days driving steam, and later diesel, locomotives." It's just too close to call.

HHE campaign to register Bolmondely Relief has sidestepped early problems. On receiving the Charity Commissioners' starting pack, we were alarmed by paragraph 14 of form CCI (So You Want To Start A Charity?), which says: "A charity must be set up for the benefit of the public at large rather than the personal benefit of individuals." But after discussions with the Commissioners, we have found a way around this . . . by stating the chari-ty's aim as "the alleviation of hardship for Peter Bot-tomley MP and other gentlefolk suffering privations due to their self-devotion to the public good". Details of post-registration money-raisers will follow. And I am thrilled to report that other friends are rallying to the cause. In the New States man diary, poor Bolmonde-ly reports that Auberon Waugh has taken to bung-ing him the odd £25 for articles in the Literary Review. If only others were as big bearted, we wouldn't need the charity at all.

PLENDID news from Norway, where balle-rina Mette Lil Johansen, 30, has won a dream home in a competition. Miss Johansen picked up the £70,000 house by clinging to a wall for five days. Despite suffering swollen legs and hallucinating about a ferry trip to Denmark, she outlasted 396 rivals, triumphing when law student Benedicte Rikstad collapsed and was rushed to bospital.



Why cigarettes are hard to stub out

Commentary

HE man in the fringed

Peter **Preston**

cowboy shirt, cowboy belt and boots, stood curiously huddled behind a bush in Spring Street, St Helena. You expected up St Helena. You expected up-stage California swagger. But he was hunched and sheep-ish, glancing over his shoulder at the tables of the Spring Street Restaurant, waiting for something. Wait-ing, it transpired, for the shrill shriek of Irene as she saw her goddamn husband smoking again. Mariboro Man turned Weedtown Wimp. I threw away my pipe of 30 years almost 24 months ago to the day. I knew, amongst other things, that I could never visit America again in peace unless that happened. The Land of the Free is the land that persecutes the could never the country to the country that the country the state of the land that persecutes the country to the country the state of the country that the country the state of the country that the country the state of the country that the country that the country the country that the coun land that persecutes tobacco and all its users. Hotels, res-taurants, public buildings, sports stadiums, cabs, even

prolonged airline-security chaos in no-smolting airports. Give the terrorists an extra kick. Watch passengers turn grey and green and start to shake compulsively. ke compulsively. Here, by common consent. California rides the highest

political wave. The regulations are tighter, the zealotry of the enforcement keener Smokers are ground down year after year; from 25 per cent to 20 now, and falling. A re-elected Clinton will legislate some more. And Britain is catching up. Probably the firmest, least weaselly pledge in Tony Blair's fledgling manifesto is a prospective Labour ban on cigarette ad-vertising. It will, apparently, vanish overnight: You would not expect that particular sweep of the legis-

lative pen to prove greatly controversial or to be bitterly resisted. Few current West-minster politicians will fight the tobacco fight openly; even Lady Thatcher earns her fattest fees abroad. Journalists everywhere, as usual seem lined up for a ban. The editorial columns won't huff, let alone puff. But even the clearest issues have their misty edges. The point about Cali-

This week's special horror is cated from state cigarette taxes. It doesn't believe that one move solves all. The British debate, by contrast, seems almost facile. We've lived for so long with the thought that banning press and poster ad-vertising holds every key that we've ceased to think much beyond it. Time to start By chance, a couple of weeks ago, I found myself

chairing a private Cambridge seminar which brought advertisers, agencies and battling pressure groups together. We spent a long, hot afternoon on tobacco adver-tising. Towards the end, play-ing Dimbleby, I asked who, after full dehate, still sup-ported a ban. There were 40 or so in the room. Only three hands went up. I'd probably have added a fourth myself: but only with its thumb well-sucked.

Let's not wallow in too much principle or too much talk about freedom of expres-sion and freedom to advertise. That may be important, but it's not advanced full-throstedly even by the industry. It is the practicality — hard enough and often cynical which counts. Do bans work? Norway might say yes; Ire-land might say not particu-larly. Correlations from Britsports stadiums, cabs, even every front restricting pro-some streets and squares: motion and opportunity, but ain after the end of cinema they're all off limits, with boosting a massive health swingeing fines attached.

link you have to look to price and tax rises.)

The deepest independent single market boxes him in, a research — by Martin Duffy at Leicester University concludes, at first glance bi-zarrely, that a total ban would probably increase cigarette smoking a little, because Duffy finds a correlation between the large health warnings that go inset with every ad and public awareness of smoking's dangers. Children of 11 or 12, the group of prime concern where smoking is growing, know that what

they're doing is perilous be-cause the ads tell them so. Take away the advertising, perhaps, and you'd merely have another great unadver-tised teenage drug — though not with the sales potential of the Number One for Growth, ecstasy: never a penny ever sional warnings from the news. Teenagers don't believe, from their peer groups or their own experience, that ecstasy is dangerous, And rot your teeth. A ban, on such evidence, will be more symbolic than they lack the relentless

If the tobacco compa nies can't spent their money on ads over £50 million a year in the press alone, a great many journalists' wages — what will they do next? No need to guess, because they tell us precisely what will happen. If against smoking, then prices will be lowered. The cash that could have gone on posters will go on bargain offers. (A price war to warm Rupert's cockles.) Could extra taxes fill

tobacco mechanism to tell

them that they may be wrong.

that gap? Not easily, because tobacco smuggling from Europe and beyond grows exponentially as the price-differential rises. Ken Clarke is already having to hold drink taxes in check.

Europe which pays hundreds of millions every year to sub-sidise its tobacco growers and likes an advertising ban be-cause it takes competitive pressure off residual state tobacco companies. No ads there often means bigger loot for the government you take the farm subsidies, the manufacturers' profits and the tax. Harmonisation looks a far

In detail, then, there is nothing simple about a ban. Even small steps towards it provide unexpected comple ity. The latest voluntary Brit-ish option has been banning posters in the vicinity of schools. Very good: except that poster companies, for prevention purposes, now have a complete list of sites near the gates, and they're fuller than ever with sweets and crisps and fizzy drinks to

straightforwardly effective. Politics by moral gesture. It may, I think, be embraced as part of an overall policy. But it's not much of a policy by itself. California has the resources to do far more be-cause it makes smokers pay for public health education every time they buy a packet. Whilst all of our health education advertising budget amounts to less than a quarter of what the tobacco companies alone spend in newspapers, California can take on Big Tobacco head to head, persuading reminding cajol-ing Irene knows the facts, her cringeing husband knows that she knows them. Maybe New Labour needs

touch of Golden State digging too. After all, if you're finally going to do something, you ought to be sure that it's something worth doing.

son leaves school at 16 because of family-income pressures and has no chance of further education or training. that is not equal opportunity. And we must act. If someone loses their job or reaches a glass ceiling at work and has no chance to acquire new work or skills, that is not equal opportunity either.

There is another reason for

choosing equality of opportunity in preference to Hatters-ley's equality of outcome. It is because we want to address the root causes of inequality and poverty and provide a principle around which a modern economy can be organised — something the proponents of equality of outcome cannot meaningfully do. For too long we have relied on the tax and benefit system to compensate people for their poverty rather than doing something more fundamental - tackling the root causes of poverty and inequality --- by creating employment, educational and economic opportu-nities that help move people dom and terrific source of T-shirt... out of poverty.

very major aca-demic study shows that increasingly unemployment and low pay are caused by the unequal access to knowledge and skills. To talk simply of more spending and more taxes is to concentrate on compensating the poor for the consequences of inequal-ity, when the challenge is far more fundamental. It is to deal with its causes - unem

ployment and low skills. Our concept of making lifelong opportunities for learn-ing really comes alive with try and individual Learning Accounts for everyone. It means every young person and not just an elite should have education after 16, should have a qualification and skills and should have work. Creating aducational and employment opportuni-ties go hand in hand. No adult should be denied employment for months on end without being offered retraining or work, particularly women who are too often denied child-care and prevented from enjoying a second chance in education and se-curing the jobs they need. So when Roy Hattersley asks whether we will do more

for a millionaire than for his unemployed constituent the answer is clear. Indeed, our windfall levy on the unfair profits of the utilities is ex-pressly designed to create a fair deal for the unemployed. At best Roy can offer compensation for the failure of gov ernment to act at a fundamen tal level. Instead, we offer the chance of ending poverty by

tackling its causes. Roy Hattersley's equality of outcome would not only leave the causes of poverty unaddressed but requires a pre-scribed, centralist imposition of outcomes, pays little regard to effort or desert and would threaten a state where oppor-tunities are not provided but imposed. And it would not even be seen as fair. It would force people to be something task is to help people make the most of what they are. Our task, taking a belief in equality most people share and strengthening it into a powerful political principle, is to make it possible for everyone to realise their po-

bridge the gap between what they are and what they have it in themselves to become. alongside liberty and soliline in politics.

In the past, Labour made opportunity which is both dedarity.

We agree about the importance of equality and a classless society. But where we to social justice. Equality is

Come into the kitchen for breakfast



HERE'S so much to read in the papers, there really is. That's not to say there isn't room for improvement. Personally, I wish there were more foreign news in the broadsheets, but then that's just the kind of person I am — serious, thoughtful and with my own far-reaching perspective on world affairs. Frankly, I would have become foreign correspondent if I hadn't thought I could do a helluva lot more good as an award-winning columnist.

And while we're on the subject, I'm sorry, but I'm sick to death of stories about the royal family. If I have to read

another article on Charles and Diana or Andrew and Fergie I think I'll scream. I mean, why should we be interested in what Diana has for creakfast, or what colour Fergie is choosing to paint her new whirlpool bath? (Actually, the answer to the

first is "Just a large cup of Herbal Tea and perhaps a Ry-vita", and to the second "pale blue with a hint of peach" but frankly who cares? But what I'd like to know is this - is one Ryvita enough, particularly with her problems? And how can Fergie afford a new whirlpool bath anyway? It's high time we were given enswers to these questions. Incidentally, I learnt the other day from someone who really knows that Prince Edward is trying to cut down on sugar in his coffee and has taken up the sugar-substitute Canderel — a fact I've yet to see reported in any paper: so much for good reporting!

My best part of any newspaper, if I'm being really hon-

est, is not the foreign news or politics or health or even environmental catastrophes. No: my absolute fave part is the women columnists, espe cially those who aren't sahamed to tell us exactly what's been happening in their private lives, warts and all. Needless to say, I've had plenty of requests from lovely, lovely readers asking me to do the same. "Bel," they informed comment on national and international news — but please, please, please, please, Bel, tell us a bit more about pourself." So here goes: long suspected, the details of A Day In The Life Of Britain's my day-to-day life are proving

Most Concerned Columnist. YESTERDAY, I woke up at 7.21am, and after booting His Nibs out of our shared bed, I made my way to the kitchen. | you'll learn all about the way We have knocked two rooms into one, thus making a com-

which definitely makes much more sense in the long run. I made myself a cup of tea but when I poured the milk it floated in globs to the surface. realised at once that it was off. On the radio, they were talking about the Northern Ireland situation, and whether in the long run the two nations would be united, which might make more sense. I switched over to Radio 2. I then took a teaspoon and tried to fish the globs from the top of the tea. but with only partial success. I then decided to have a cup of coffee instead; I don't mind coffee without milk but I hate tea without milk. I put one and-a-half spoons of Gold Blend into the blue mug with the chip on it and then I put a sugar-substitute in it and

waited a minute for it to cool A few minutes later, I began to sip my coffee. It tasted quite coffee-ish. On the radio, they were discussing the Single Currency, so I switched back to Radio 4. I was halfway through my coffee when I decided to make a plece of toast. I did this by cutting a slice of bread off a fresh loaf with a shurp knife and then placing it in the toast.

in the toaster.
I have found over the years that this is a good method, as it means both sides can be toasted at once, and at equal heat. The toast completed, I effective butter substitute to layer of thick-cut orange mar-malade made to an excellent recipe by the late, great Eliza-beth David, given to me recently by a close friend, Barbara, when she came to stay. On the radio, news came through of either a famine or a drought in either Africa or India, I didn't catch which. My marmalade on toast was delicious, but my lest hand was a bit sticky. So I turned on the cold tap and gave it a good clean. On the radio, they were discussing the future of Russia under an ailing Yeltsin. This set me to wondering whether it wouldn't be better for my health to drink Herbal Tea

And isn't it about time I invested in a whirlpool bath? They say they're completely fab, though obviously one would have to go for the right colour. The announcer said that news had just come in of a major pile-up involving 10 cars, so I switched back to Radio 2, wondering whether the day would be not enough to wear my beloved old Katherine Hamnett Nuclear Awareness

Still just 7.35am, and 600 words later I've hardly even finished breakfast! As I have long suspected, the details of a very rich source of inspiration for this award-winning column. Next week, I'll tell you what it's like getting dressed, and in a formight I brush my teeth, and the week after ... but I mustn't bined kitchen/dining area, ruin it for you.



In the real world

Gordon Brown dismisses Roy
Hattersley's dream of 'equality
of outcome' as a nice idea in

more important than ever today. For now in the 1990s in the one-off, pass-fail educational chance until 16 at school that if lost means a lifetime of failure. The equality of opportunity is also the key to economic prosperity. Why? Beconomic prosperity. Why? Beconomic prosperity of opportunity I support is changing information based. theory, but of no practical value to a new Labour government

Britain where a commitment to equality reflected our passion for social justice.
Now in 1996 we live in a

fore on a scale undreamt of when the welfare state was created in 1945. To take just one example of this pervasive inequality: children of parents doing manual work, with low-level qualifications identical to those of children of professional parents, are only haif as likely to stay on at school and one third as likely to abter the professional parents. likely to obtain jobs in profes sional occupations. So, as both Roy Hattersley (Balance of power, July 25) and I have said, we must restore equality to its rightful place in the socialist trinity of values, alongside liberty and soli-

WAS brought up in Scot-land in the 1950s and 1960s to believe in a Britain where a commit-britain where a commitachieved. Socialism, Roy, must stand well clear of impossibilism. Our aim is genu-Now in 1996 we live in a line equality of opportunity Britain where inequality is for all — and to make that growing faster than ever be happen will be the central goal of the next Labour

government. The current condition of Britain cries out for change, We live in a country in which ambition is crushed by avoidable poverty where we have seen wage inequality widening faster than anywhere in Europe and where there is a real risk of an underclass. A Labour government will not tolerate growing inequality and social division. That is why the goal of equality together to make it a reality

line in politics.

In the past, Labour made opportunity which is both deequality the issue because we sirable and possible.

changing information-based economy dominated by the importance of knowledge, the skills of people and their abil-ity to adapt. Indeed, the defining characteristic of economy is less an individual's ability to gain access to capital and far more his or her ability to gain access to knowledge and

to use it creatively.
In the years after 1979, the new right argued that eco-nomic progress depended upon liberty, which itself meant the pursuit of inequality. Now increasingly people see the converse as true, that liberty, equality of opportunity and prosperity are mutu-ally reinforcing. Indeed, the more opportunity there is, and the wider it is distributed, the more liberty is enhanced. As I said in the John Smith memorial lecture, all roads to economic prosperity now pass through equality. But we must be clear what we mean by equality. In contrast to Roy Hattersley's unattain-able version of equality of is now the central dividing outcome, I propose a maximalist version of equality of opportunity which is both de-

recurrent, lifelong and com-prehensive: political, cultural, social and economic op-portunities for all, with an obligation on Government to pursue them relentlessly. So by maximising equality of opportunity I mean not only tackling entrenched in-

terests that deny people op-portunity — from the House of Lords to the monopoly pricing by the utilities, and elitist barriers to our culture — and providing lifelong education, but also a responsibility on government to create employment opportunities for all and tackle the root causes of modern poverty and inequality. A maximalist equality of opportunity takes us further than the formal opening of doors to the conditions which are needed to make opportunity real. It must offer, as Tawney rightly said, far more than a reluctant invitation to dinner in the knowledge circumstances will prevent people from attending.

If a child misses out at the tential to the full. It is to

start of life because of a shortage of nursery school places,

New Internationalist magazine John doesn't get it



ĺ	NO-RISK TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION
	These send me my 3 free issues and free stap. If J decide to cancel, J will be confined and rell you within 10 days of receiving my third issue. If I wish to comfine, I need do nothing. Starting from the 1st of the following attents, you will charge my account quarterly, until cancelled, the Ni subscription price (now 15.85).
ļ	DIRECT DEBIT INSTRUCTION - To my bank transport I before you gay direct childs at

Name (BLOCK LETTERS place)	Bank Halifally Society Account in the sures of
Address	Bark Address
Postcole	Postcode Attitude Namber

A fusion of cultures

come former Yugoslavia's greatest contempopoet. His verse, which explores culture, memory and percention in joyful vet scalnel-sharp images has been widely translated and

won many awards.

Born in Belgrade, he spent his teenage years in Zagreb and claimed both the Serbian cultural heritage with its Byz-Croatian tradition, which looks towards Italy and north ern Europe. This fusion led to Lalie seeing himself not so much as a "Serbian" or even a "Yugoslat" poet but as a Mediterranean one, Many of his poems blaze with the in-tense light and primary colours of the Mediterranean:

A garden turned in compassion towards the sea And steeped in the Slue anaestheric of afternoon

standows: The old lact of light. vellouring and frayed. And the sea's fire between the

When Interviewed in 1983

in the war marked very strongly everything I ever wrote as a poem," he replied.
"In this book, the first poem is ... about my schoolfriends. were my age and perished in an air-raid ... and I remained to remember ..."
The book has just been published in English by Anvil Press, and its title, A Rusty Needle, is taken from this

But I remained, to grow on With their gaze in the nape of my neck, like A rusty needle just under the skin; but also, slowly, To come to love the night and

first, crucial poem:

her soft stars again. Memory suffuses bis poems. As "spaces of hope" where the individual can briefly preserve the past:

A lilac garden, A street in Florence, a morning room, A sea smeared with silver before the storm. Or a starless night lit only By the book on the table.

VAN V LALIC, who has about his poetry's central ory, where threads of collectheme. He picked up a book tive wisdom can survive the "My childhood and boyhood destruction of civilisations." destruction of civilisations. These threads, random and incoherent though they may be, we call culture: the vital, fragile link that connects us as individuals to a wider wholeness. Yet finding the threads is a Herculean task, and contacting the lost whole ness may be impossible. But the searching, even though it may be in vain, is what gives meaning to human life:

> Terrible is the effort to recognise love In the waning, and to read the

In the nettle between two syllables of stone, in the wound Healing swifter than the telling . our task

Is to remember, to deliver blows: The task of the peach is to

Lalić came to prominence in the mid-1950s, as part of the cultural blossoming -- especially in poetry - which forced Tito's Communist party to relinquish control over literature. Unlike the

whose weird, brilliant, atavis-tic verse played a key role in convincing apparatchiks that there was more to literature than partisan epics and pseudo-folksong, Lalic's poetry was never avant-garde.

In theme and tone, he formed part of the European modernist mainstream. His

first links were to other Mediterranean poets - Montale, Seferis. But also to a wider European and American tradition: Hölderlin, Rilke and Valery, Yeats, Eliot and Pound — and through Pound's Cathay, even to the poets of Tang dynasty China. His language, though the ideas it expressed grew more complex in his later verse, never aimed for incoherence or cheap effects, whatever the fashion — "While some played the saxophone and others the peasant flute, I just sat in the corner and played my cello," he once said of his role in 1950s' literary polem-ics. This self-sufficiency

meant that his verse, though

it immediately won prizes only slowly gained wider do-

mestic recognition. But his

home reputation is now all

not ephemeral or flashy. Dur-ing the 1980s he was recognised as a poet of major Euro pean stature. Recent awards were the American Thornton Wilder Prize (1990), the British European Poetry Transla-tion Prize (1991), and Italy's Rosone d'oro (1995). He read at many British and interna-

tional poetry festivals. His international allegiance and wide focus meant that his verse did not directly reflect his country's deepening 1980s crisis. What we do see is a change, during the late 1970s and early 1980s, from the wide historical panoramas of his "middle period" back to the personal concerns of his earlier verse — but with a darkness and sense of impending chaos. As in the 1975 poem Broadcast (from Fading tact, Anvil Press):

The broadcast is vitally important, They say, the last before a long, long night Without love,

And no-one can recall now How the contact first started to

Recent years brought the leath of his son on a yachting voyage across the self-same Adriatic that figures so vividly in Ivan's poems. And with the war, his lifeline to his beloved sea was cut. As a Serb, he could not visit his second home — his real, spiritual home — in Rovini, which ls on Croatia's Istrian coast, almost opposite Venice.

These losses were perhaps still too keen to be expressed death. But throughout his work, we see the strength and support he drew from his love for his wife Branka, whose calm warmth and incisive wit so aptly complemented Ivan's mercurial sparkiness and the dynamism of his immense cultural knowledge:

For years I have known we are disappearing together: You burnt through with the star of my memory, outside which You steadily diminish, myself

beautifully dispersed in you in every afternoon, in every room, in every day, In everything which fills you

slowly, like sand Filling a riverbed; and this, Lasts longer than another's

failure, came mercifully drawn to the crumbling swiftly. He leaves Branka, and a son, Marko.

Francis R Jones

Ivan V Lalić, poet, born June 8



The perfect guide ... Peter Martini (centre) in St Petersburg for a break after the elections, with a Russian friend (left) and Nell Drake, a BBC colleague PHOTO ANN MEGUINE

Peter Martini

Right man in Russia

has died aged 31 in a road accident near Novgorod in Russia, was a highly respected and widely liked television producer with the BBC's foreign news department. He had played an important part in organising the BBC's cover age of the Russian presiden-tial elections and was accompanying the driver of a truck loaded with equipment on its way back to Britain from Moscow when the accident

I last saw Peter at the height of a Moscow winter five years ago when he was working for Tass, the Soviet news agency which was struggling to find a role in the immediate aftermath of the Cold War. Peter's work was grim: translating the Russian dispatches into English for no audience in particular; earn-ing roubles when most other expat journalists were paid in

western currency.

But the job had its perks -a vast, rent-free government apartment, first bite at breaking news from Tass correspondents and, much more important, a Tass identity card, which allowed him to bypass the legions of petty oureaucrats which still blighted the country. During the 10 days that I was his guest we strode around Moscow like minor dignitaries.

He was the perfect guide. Peter Martini was the most unideological of Sovietologists. Unlike many other children of the Cold War power, his love for Kus sia didn't come from a misplaced feeling of socialist nostaleia for what might have been. But nor did he have anything in common with the

hordes of capitalist expan-

ETER MARTINI, who | sionists who filled the | Sky TV and the BBC, he Russia appealed to his sense of adventure.

I remember him taking me to a sauna, refuge of the working man. He thought it would give me a glimpse of the real Russia — his Russia. In the locker room the authorities had installed four large screens tuned in to the predi gested pop of MTV. The guard of soft rock had suceeded in a matter of month failed after decades of trying. found it deeply depressing: Peter thought it was hilarious.

Peter was not a brilliant student. When we were at primary school together near Bristol his greatest success was the first prize he won impersonating Elvis Presley in a fancy-dress competition. With his big moon face, blond hair and protruding ears, it was a bizarre choice but in full costume his likeness to the king of rock 'n' roll was remarkable. Unfortunately there were no exams in

mimicry.
But Peter was never the sort of person to let a little thing like exams get in his way. In Britain his compre-hensive/polytechnic pedigree was always going to hold him back. In Russia, I know, he felt he could be his own man - judged by his actions rather than his class or and helped save the life of a

intellect Although he sometimes complained when preference | we lost him, a brilliant as given to UXbridge graduates, he always knew he would make it in the end and he took a certain pride in the fact that he had had to do it the hard way. Via February 18, 1965; died July 9, freelance work at Reuters. 1996 freelance work at Reuters,

country at the beginning of the 1990s. He just loved to be where the action was and field, where it really counted. By the time of his death he had worked for every major news organisation in Moscow and gained the respect of them all. He took risks but he was also eminently practical

Ben Brown, BBC foreign Peter had spent months planning every detail of the presidential election coverage with typical enthusiasm and extraordinary skill. Russia was Peter's great love; he spoke the language wonderfully well and understood its people and politics better than many analysts and correspondents. He lived a great deal of his short life there.

For those of us in Moscow press corps at the time, he brightened up what was often a difficult place to work and live with his huge personality, his booming laugh and his overpowering after-shave. He was the hear of every party, the first on the dance floor (especially if Bananarama were on the turntable) and the last to leave. But he worked every bit as hard as he played.

I was with him at the height of the war in Chechenia where he showed quite exceptional courage cameraman. He had only just areer ended as It was taki off, a marvellous life cut horribly short.

Memory and conflict . . . Lalic's work was marked by his experience of growing up in the second world war LORI SAUER | 1931; died July 27, 1996

Birthdays

*********** Eddie Beil, chairman and publisher, Barner Collins BK. 47: John Bewis, MP, minister tor transport, 51, John Broome, tounder, Alton Towers Theme Park, 33, Roy Crimmins, jara trombonist, 67. Julia Foster, actress, 54; John Gale, theatrent pro-ducer, 87; Sir John Hannam, Conservative MF, 87; Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman. Altied Domecq, 60; Martin Jean-Jacques, cricketer. 36: Gundula Janowitz, opera singer, 59; Prof George Jenkins, haematologist, 69. Dr. George Kimble, geographer,

88; Sammy McIlroy, football nianager. 42: Sir Reginald Murley, surgeon, 80; Lord Murray, former TUC general secretary, 74: Peter O'Toole, actor, 64: Kathleen Peyton, children's writer, 67: Lord Shuttleworth, chairman. Rural Development Commis sion. 48: Prof Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, math eniatician, 69: Rose Tremain, novelist and playwright, 53; Alan Tuffin, former leader. Union of Communication Workers, 62: Lord Waddington QC, Governor of Ber muda, 67: Alan Whicker, broadcaster, 71: Sir Brian Wolfson, chairman, Color-vision, 61.

Letters

Anthony Walker lerites: Mervyn Cowie arbituary July 30) was negreered by Anthony Steel in the Harry Watt-directed film Where No Valuers Fly (1981). The movie was important in making many of us of the inid-century wartime generation into lifelong

Doug Williamson urities, The remarkable performance of Mississipi guitarist Roosevelt "Booba" Barnes tobituary July 29: in the 1992 television documentary Deep Blues was a poignant reflection of his life and drinking. He sang I Ain't Gonna Worry About Tomorrow, but he introduced

Peter Ludwig

Sweet taste of fame

and chocolate mag-nate who has died aged 71. was a generous benefactor but a notorious egotist who delighted in having en-tire museums as well as individual collections named after him.

bought art in huge quantities, ignoring critics' sneers at his Soviet painting and contemporary Cuban art. He colected everything from Aztec art to baroque porcelain, from medieval manuscripts to Nazi sculpture, and in 1990 he bought a new painting every day. He gave or lent almost everything to museums and galleries in Germany and

ETER LUDWIG, the forever. "Patrons have their German art collector price," he said once. "I am pleased when respected institutions carry my name. Everyone has his fad — that

actor but a notorious egotist who delighted in having enire museums as well as indicted him.

The Ludwig Institute for Art of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) opened in Oberhausen in 1984 and the magnificent in 19 New York art world, Ludwig Ludwig Museum in Cologne opened two years later, hous-ing one of Germany's most enthusiasm for Pop Art, impressive collections of modern art. In 1991 the Ludwig Museum for International Art in Aachen and another Ludwig Museum in Budapest were opened. He offered Cologne 90 Picas-

sos on condition that the city would build a new museum elsewhere but always on one condition — that the collections would bear his name "for all time". The city's politicians ground their teeth but accepted the pictures. specially for them and that it

Born into a cultivated merchant family in Koblenz, Ludwig was introduced to con-temporary art while still a schoolboy. He became a teen-age cultural functionary for the Nazis as a member of the Hitler Youth but he had lost faith in fascism and in his mentor Albert Speer by 1942 and turned from politics to academic life, studying for a doctorate in art history.

Under pressure from his family, he abandoned his ambition to become an art historian and turned his hand to business. After marrying the daughter of a chocolate manufacturer, he took over the running of two large chocolate factories in Aachen. He first started collecting

art seriously during the 1960s, flying to New York almost every week to buy new works by Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol and James Rosen-"Art is more important than any consideration of its future importance," he said.



Ludwig . . . making himself a big name in art collections

quist. Though some critics complained that he was the very model of an American collector who "sees with his ears", Ludwig saw himself as a pioneer, discovering new art movements and reevaluating neglected art.

Unlike Charles Saatchi and

the Italian collector Count Giuseppe Panza di Biumo whom he regarded as his rivals, Ludwig did not be-come involved in the disastrous 1980s speculation game that gripped the art world. The reason was that his chocolate factories ran into difficulties and he was forced to sell off parts of his business.

In 1983 he outraged German public opinion by selling 144 medieval manuscripts to the Getty Museum in California. He never sold another art work but the controversy damaged Ludwig's reputation irrevocably and obscured the enormous contribution his bequests have made to numerous German museums.

He drew sharp criticism again this year after he attacked the Dalai Lama and defended China's record in Tibet. Critics pointed out that Ludwig had made his remarks at a crucial stage in negotiations with the Chinese government over the building of a new Ludwig Museum in

Beijing. Ludwig's generosity seldom

"What matters is today, the extended to the workers in his chocolate factories and, just before his death, he was planning to sack most of them and move production to

Poland. Ludwig is survived by his wife Irene but he had no chil-dren and the future ownerand his business interests is uncertain.

Denis Staumton

Peter Ludwig, businessman and art collector, born July 9, 1925; dled July 22, 1995

Engagements

REARDON/MULHOLLAND. Dr Reardon to Nicholas Mulhotand daughter of Brian Reardon of Beril Christine Reardon of Pets Wood, and loss, son of Jamel Mulholland and is Mulholland, have become engaged tambles with them serve turne bare

Jackdaw 🔧



Silent spring

WHEN the pyramids of Giza were shimmering and new, these figures already were as ancient as the pyramids now Five of these old figures – most of them near life-sized – were found 12 years ago in 'Ain Ghazal C'Spring of the Gazelles' on what today is Jordan . . . The statues were face down, crumbling tocether some so feet beneath the present surface of the carth. Above 6 outcomes again give or take a composition of been burned as a pur beneath a smooth white-plastered floor \ldots ${
m Am}$ Gaz decreasement.

about the tune that human

beings first began

domesticating animals and plants. In some ways this is urban

said I wasn't going to do this

art, among the oldest yet dis-covered. You can see that in its size as well as its materials. Earlier hunter-gatherers would not have carried around works so big and breakable . . . Perhaps they're tribal gods, or spirits of the land, or ancestors long dead. No still-undiscovered texts are likely to prove useful in resolving such conjectures. For these statues were first formed — on armatures of twine-hound reeds - a good 3,000 years before writing first appeared. The Washington Post haunted by the figures on exhi-bition at the Smithsonian

Coarse horse "EITHER the horse coes, or l do." So what happens next? . . For most horses wring women, there's supply contest, because when it comes to choosing between tarses and men, old four legs wins at a canter. More than 70 per cent of you admitted

you'd send your bloke packing every time if it came to the crunch question "Man or he crumen question "Man or horse." , especially if he was selfish enough to put the poser to you in the first place ... And one woman said

she'd managed to pick the horse and keep her man: "Men are easy to confuse when you put on your short skirt and suspenders," she ob-

Most of you have had horses all your lives and, while men may come and go, your horse term partner you need . . . where does this leave sex? Well, it really does seem that 16 hands between your legs is more satisfying than a man every time.
The first issue of Gallop

magazine, for "people passion ate about horses".

BritFood HOW about starting with a Szechwan pork salad? Have I strayed into a Chinese? No. it's on the Modern British menu at the Chiswick in West London, Let's try again:

chilli dipping sauce... The bacon is Italian pancetta cooked in a Chinese soy sauce stock, the oysters are Irish — and rolled in toasted sesame seeds and Japanese breadcrumbs (yes, they do come from Japan) . . . Sounds great, but did I miss the Brit-ish bit? Well, in this instance,

it's provided by the chef, Henry Harris, who is British ... "Modern British means anything we've nicked from around the world," says multiple restaurateur An-tony Worrall Thompson, a pioneer of the movement. pioneer of the movement . . .
The most successful dish has to be mashed potatoes, thanks to its amazing versatility.
Mash combines readily with everyone's Mediterranean favourite like goat's cheese and parmesan, not to mention olive oil, pesto and garlic Superior ingredients are just as eager to be in on the mash phenomenon. Truffe

mash phenomenon. Truffle oil is drizzled over mashed potatoes flavoured with smoked bacon and prunes. which Harris serves with West London. Let's try again: pork-and-leek sausages. deep fried bacon, oysters and That's either culinary genius.

or a cultural train-smash. Ian Wisniewski noshes in Decanter magazine.

YOU set out with a trowel and merry heart to liberate some merry neart to interate some pot-bound prisoners from the florist and before you know it you have chopped a couple of worms in half and wrecked the life's work of innumera-ble insects, and then, likely as not, predators will demolish your feeble humane defences and strip your new arrivals to skeletons in couple of

nights.
In the quiet street where I live there are gardens whose owners make the world a better place by giving pleasure to passers-by. A magnolia touches the heart every spring, with the appearance of its fuzzy, green almond buds. There is the Mexican prance blossom. Choises to orange blossom. Choisya ternata, with its sweet-smelling white and gold flowers, and later on there will be hydrangeas, and berries on the slen-der rowan planted at intervals

in the pavement . . . Which brings me back to

the back garden, and there's lt's bugged

the rub, or laceration. This is the kingdom of slug and snail and sometimes frog and toad with a wonderful old rose-mary, tall roses and indomitable borage. I hate the creaks and sappy sighs, green blood and smeared insects that accompany gardening in the back, which includes the cracking of a shell under your



Horsey people . . . Gallon!

The novelist Shena Mackay loves and not loves horticulture in Garden Illustrated.

Way West WHEN Harrison R Crandall

WHEN Harrison R Crandall first saw Jenny Lake, Wyoming, this area south of Yellowstone was quiet and wild. As Crandall described in a journal entry dated July 1921: "No post office there. No store — Lake, woods & mts only." Through July and August, Crandall and his friend Art continued to camp and hike in the mountains, scaling glacters and venturscaling glaciers and venturing into remote locales. Crandall spent many mornings sketching. In the evenings, he developed photographs in-side his tent and washed the prints of craggy peaks and glassy waters in a nearby lake

until midnight

By September, Crandali had returned to Idaho to marry Hildegard Winter, who accompanied him the following year in his Model T Ford over "roads that had not yet been built" back to Wyoming; high-altitude, pine-tree paradise. They carried with

them the bare minimum: clothes, a tent, Harrison's 3A Special Eastman Kodak camera and photography

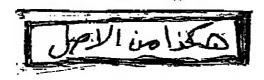
supplies . . . Early on, Crandall and his wife stayed year round in Jackson Hole hoping to estab-lish the business and enjoy a snowbound life in the mountains. The first winter, Hilde-gard kept the fires going and cooked. She dyed old underwear in shades of brown, orange and blue and braided the strips into a rug. When they needed photographic supplies, they brought them in by snowshoe and toboggan from Moran. "He pulled and I pushed." Hildegard said.
Found poetry, by Elizabeth
Clair Flood, from a kind of
Tatler come-Country Life magazine out of Dallas, Texas,

called Cowboys & Indians Fax 0171-718-4366; E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk.; write Jackdaw, The Guardian.

119 Farringdon Road, London

Vanessa Harlow

ECIR SER.





P-power . . . Merceder dealer Normand has in its central London showroom just the thing for a date-conscious buyer



P for prosperity

tration cars yester-day left the motor industry predicting that this month's sales of new vehicles would be the second-highest on record and push the year's car tally over two million.

But the system of changing number plate identifiers every August could soon be a thing of the past, after complaints from carmakers and motor traders, who find it increasingly difficult to cope with the mid-summer dash. Between 20 and 25 per cent of annual car sales are

recorded in August. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says the return of consumer confidence could push sales of Preg cars this month to 485,000, the highest August haul since 1989, when 500,900 cars were sold. This would put the in-dustry on course for two mil-lion car sales in 1996, against the market peak of 2.3 million

Making a date with £1m

SALESMAN Keith Hughes samed the title "million pound man" after selling 25 Daimler and Jaguar care — all for collection yesterday. Mr Hughes, aged 57, who works at Evan Haishaw Jaguar, Birmingham, said his racipe for sales success was "persistence and retention of business". His boss, Peter Exton, put his success down to eheer ionalism: "He's been running around like a ferret!" ☐ The AA received its first P-reg call-out at 12.40am — 40 minutes after the cars went on sale. By late afternoon the AA and RAC

reported 112 calls. For the AA, problems included trouble with security systems, gear box seizures, "knocking noises in the en pine," a boot that would not shut and a gear lever that came off. The RAC said it had been called out to flat batteries, fuel leaks, the wrong fuel being used and even a couple of wheel changes — "they didn't know where the jack was kept".

duced in January 1963 and

Preparing for the August rush has become increasingly tricky in an industry still suffering from the last recession - the deepest post-war downturn - and the protracted uncertainty among buyers that

Building stockpiles for

nies, particularly in years when sales have proved dis-appointing. The system also

Dealers also have to find extra space and staff to cope with the sales rush, and the recent trend for competitive feeling the pinch.

Consumers, too, find little to recommend the system unless they have a particular penchant for one-upmanship. A car bought on July 31 instantly becomes worth less than a similar model bought the next day. One industry source said yesterday: "The chances are the July car will have been built after the one sold in August, anyway."
The police have remained

supporters of the year identi-fier as making for easier identification of cars involved in Now the Department of dustry, is considering whether the system should be scrapped. A consultation doc

runs counter to the precise in-ventory planning that has ument may not emerge until much later this year or early come with just-in-time manu-The most favoured replace ment is a quarterly system of clude identification by town

Vauxhall buys car 'intelligence' to avoid the jams tomorrow

Richard Thomas

VAUXHALL cars are to be fitted with "intelligent" information systems to guide motorists around traffic snarl-ups, it was an-nounced yesterday. Britain's second-biggest

motor manufacturer has placed an order for 100,000 Oracle traffic information providers - which work through car radio systems from Trafficmaster plc.
 After news of this first big
 Oracle deal, shares in Trafficmaster rose 34p to close

Some Vauxhall models are expected to be mar-keted with the system as Michelle Murphy, Traf-ficmaster marketing manager, said the company was also in discussion with other "big name" car firms,

with further announcements imminent.
"Over the last 10 years, been the big issues. Now onboard systems — the creation of the "intelligent" of origin or colour coding of plates.

car — are the selling points," she said. The Oracle system is triggered by beacons spaced at two-mile intervals along motorways, which cut into radio programmes to issue traffic warnings — or flash a red light — and use voice-based technology to de-

scribe road conditions. David Martell, Trafficmaster's chief executive said: 'This contract is the first order from an OEM original equipment manufacturer — for Oracle and represents an important milestone in the develop-ment of the company."

The Oracle system which was unveiled at the Silverstone motor show in April — is an offshoot of Trafficmaster's off-the-shelf TrafficMate, which has so far sold 50,000 screen and voice-based units.

A Vauxhall spokesma said the firm was satisfied with the deal, and that no further details would be given of how the system would be introduced until

Next year British Gas will

split off its trading arm, cer-tain gas field interests and the take-or-pay contracts into a

separately quoted company, British Gas Energy. Directors concede privately that shares in this firm are likely to prove

volatile as the market attempts to predict Energy's success in

twisting arms in the oil indus

try and suing the trade and in-dustry department.

Faced with investor unrest.

the Government may not

agree that British Gas shares have proved poor value. But ministers realised soon after the 1986 sell-off that they had got it badly wrong in a wider sense. They transferred a powerful moneyout to the private and the sense.

erful monopoly to the private sector with little thought of

creating a competitive market The current crisis between

British Gas and Ofgas has its

roots in that mess. Some of the leading members of the MMC investigation launched in 1993 to unscramble the fi-

asco would be involved in a

'Animal tail' will be cut shorter

OUTLOOK/Mergers and takeovers are order of the day as the investment trust sector slims down. Ian King reports

come up with Rentokil's £2 billion swoop on BET, along with the two-way fights for Lloyds Chemists and

Yet the investment trust sector - not renowned for dramatic skirmishes — has thrown up several intriguing contests. The latest, launched on Wednesday, promises to be

TR European Growth Trust (TREG), a fund specialising in small and medium-sized European companies, has bid in the region of 2500 million or the Kleinwort European Privatisation Trust (KEPIT)

one of two such funds launched in a fanfare of pub licity two years ago, and TREG, which has been highly which was designed to cash in on the public's desire to invest in European privatisa-tion issues.

At its launch, KEPIT along with the similarly-sized Mercury European Privatisation Trust - seemed a foolproof idea. Privatisation, a sure fire winner with inves-tors on this side of the English Channel, would surely offer some tasty morels on the continent.

Small investors agreed, sending in cheques by the loryload, helping the two "terriple twins" to raise £1 billion between them. Demand was so huge, in fact, that Klein-wort had to refund around £250 million.

However, the funds have been proved a huge disappointment to the 120,000 or so ounters that piled in, not least ecause world stock markets fell shortly after the pair came to market.

In addition, with regulation ipparently stiffer on the con-

SKED to name the biggest bids launched in 1996, most City folk would probably were in the UK, European privatisations have not of-fered the bonanzas that they have in Britain.

Accordingly, shares in the two funds have continually traded at a substantial discount to net asset value, prompting both Mercury and Kleinwort to take radical action in the form of recogni action in the form of reorgan isations and share buy-backs. Now, TREG — itself capital-ised at a mere £140 million has decided on a more radical step and has pledged, if suc-cessful, to liquidate KEPIT's portfolio. This gives KEPIT's investors the chance to cash in their original investment at close to net asset value, or trade it in for shares in

regarded for some time. Yesterday, KEPIT rejected TREG's approach, and City rumours suggest that there may yet be another bidder waiting in the wings.

It would be no great sur-orise if there was. According to Hamish Buchan, invest-ment trust guru at broker NatWest Securities, the sector is like an animal with an extremely long tail.

In other words, the 126 in-Share index account for around £31 billion worth of assets, while the next 111 trusts represent a mere vestment trust sector is ripe for rationalisation, and there are many trusts - particularly those sitting on discounts of 10 per cent or more

that look vulnerable. The investment trust sector tion over the next 18 months. The bid for KEPIT could just

Top five investment Trust bids

idder	Target	Deal size
R European Growth IT	Kleinwort European Privatisation IT	2500m
egent Kingpin IT	GT Chile Growth Fund	£350m
ritish Empire Secs	Selective Assets Trust	£172m
R Pacific IT	Thomton Asian Emerging Markets IT	£158m
eming Worldwide IT	Fleming International High Income IT	£135m

News in brief

2,000 Names back Lloyd's offer

LLOYD'S £3.2 billion reconstruction plans received a further boost yesterday when nearly 2,000 Names from the Merrett action group voted to accept the offer of £95 million plus expenses. But the market received a setback after investors to have paid their share of the market's £8 billion debts decided to seek a judicial review of the terms of settlement offer. Paying Names will receive less generous treatment than those who do not pay. Lloyd's yesterday ruled out any extra money, but the action represents an unwelcome legal intervention with just 28 days before the offer needs to be approved. —

RBS takes over custody

THE Royal Bank of Scotland further boosted its custody business resterday with news that it is to pay up to £20 million for SG

Warburg's custody and investor services division and certain assets owned by Mercury Asset Management.

After the deal goes through, the RBS will be making it one of the biggest custodians in the UK, with £250 billion worth of assets in custody. The Warburg division's 700 employees will transfer to the bank. Plans are to combine the businesses in a new subsidiary of the bank, RBS Trust Bank. — Sarah Whitebloom

Hinchliffe hearing

STEPHEN HINCHLIFFE, former chairman of collapsed retail group Facia, and fellow director Christopher Harrison will face a boardroom disqualification hearing in January. A Newcastle judge ruled yesterday that Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Harrison have until October 24 to file their evidence in court and the Departme of Trade and Industry must respond by January 6. The DTI wants the two men barred from holding directorships in connection with their dealings with Boxgrey, a shell company. — Roger Couce

Homebase homecoming

SAINSBURY is to buy out the minority partner in its Homebas DIY operation. The company said yesterday it would pay £55 million for the 25 per cent stake held by Belgian DIY specialist GIB, and would repay a £12.5 million loan. — Roger Couce

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Problems, problems lurk in gas pipeline

Monopolies inquiry would cap privatised utility's crisis-prone decade, write SIMON BEAVIS and CHRIS BARRIE

come accustomed to living in a state of siege. But after two years of unbroken crisis - including a political furore over fat-cat pay, soaring customer complaints, and warfare with the rest of the oil and gas world — the privatised com-

pany knows that worse could be yet to come.

The signs are that by October a row between the com-pany and its main regulator, the Office of Gas Supply (Ofgas), will be hurled into the unpredictable arena of the Monopolies and Mergers

Commission.

It will be the second time since privatisation in 1986 that the company has undergone a full MMC investiga-tion. There have also been in-quirles by the Office of Fair Trading and a range of govlaunched in deliberate contradiction to the work of the MMC and the OFT.

The present row concerns new price controls for British Gas's pipelines business. TransCo. Ofgas has prelimi-nary proposals to cut charges

revaluation of TransCo's sorted out."

asset base and cut the allowable return on those assets, just for British Gas. The Gov-

which will cut the company's revenues by more than

2350 million a year.
British Gas sees this as retrospective regulation; in effect, the regulator saying that shareholders got the company on a steal and seeking to grab back past riches. Final proposals are expected

to be delivered — six we late — in about two wee late — in about two weeks time. There is not a whiff of compromise in the air. The company says thousands of jobs will be lost, safety compromised and dividends cut. Clare Spottiswoode, Ofgas director-general, warns that the MMC could be even tougher than she is — the genteel than she is — the genteel equivalent of Dirty Harry's "make my day".

As Simon Flowers, analyst with NatWest Markets, puts the "Office believes despite".

it. "Ofgas believes deeply in the principle of what it is doing. It believes the com-pany has had the luxury of a regulatory formula which has benefited it hugely since pri-

British Gas came out of an MMC inquiry in 1993 think-ing it had a reliable regula-tory framework. The comto shippers using TransCo
pipes by between 20 and
28 per cent from next year.

More fundamentally, it has based its assumptions on a thought the 1993 MMC had believes the

Clare Spottiswoode responds to howls about lost jobs, profits and dividends with warning that the MMC could be even tougher than she has been

domestic gas market to compe-tition by 1998 would be in jeopardy if the fight about Trans-Co's prices goes to the MMC.

But, having made political capital out of promises from Ms Spottiswoode that the price caps could reduce do-mestic bills by £30 a year, ministers are in no mood to spike the watchdog's guns. An MMC inquiry would not be complete until the middle of next year — after the gen-eral election, when unscram-bling the mess could be someone else's problem.
The privatisation was once

hailed as the peak of the That-cherite revolution. It was the



ernment's pledge to open the got a taste of the get-richquick culture of the 1980s. Others welcomed the chance to sign up for a secure long-term investment and remain part of the continuing army of small shareholders. Now these shareholders are in

sold to investors at 135p a share, payable in three instalments. Two years after flota-tion, the shares had reached 157p. Recently they have been hovering around 191p, a premium hardly in line with the riches made by investors in the electricity industry.
Investors in British Gas

buying North Sea gas at prices greater than those pre-vailing in the spot market. Oil groups have been reluc-tant to renegotiate, but BG insists it will secure new terms in 1997.

ish Gas's financial forecasting is a legal wrangle with the Government over tax paid on gas from some North Sea

France 7.515

TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS

new inquiry. They may relish the thought of having another look at British Gas.

Australia 1.945 Austria 15.625 Beiglum 45.73 Canada 2.087 Cyprus 0.6885 Denmark 8.625 Germany 2.221 Greece 357.50 Hong Kong 11.72 India 55.35

haly 2,320 Singapore 2,147 Marks 0,5390 South Airce 6 62 Netherlands 2,4985 Sapaln 189,50 New Zealand 2,2025 Sweden 10,11 Norway 9,65 Switzerland 1,80

Starting a business? We'll make sure everything shapes up.

When you're building and At Barclays we offer plent sheets and free banking, all designed to provide you with a solid foundation. So call us today on 0800~400~170

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Doing rather well over here Sign-on fees . . . and over there, too



President Clinton, flanked by economic adviser Joe Stiglitz, Vice President Al Gore and National Economic Council chairman Laura Tyson, halls the economic figures PHOTOGRAPH STEPHEN JAFFE

Boom in Britain

OUSE prices are rising at their fastseven years as consumer confidence

show that the price of proparty resumed its year-long up-ward trend last month argument are now more inserecorded in June.

Evidence that lower mortgage rates and the cut-price deals offered by lenders have market is likely to limit the prospects of further cuts in the cost of borrowing.

However, the recovery will belo convince the Government that an improving economy can still eliminate Labour's poli lead and deliver

a fifth election victory.

The Halifax data coincides with a survey yesterday from the forecasting group Business Strategies, which argued that job insecurity had been blown out of proportion.
Regional variations in

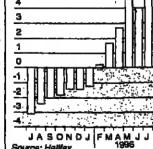
levels of economic happiness have been almost eliminated

vey showed. Despite growing fears that new working conditions and the rise of part-time employment have led to job insecurity. Business Strategles said that people are in-creasingly optimistic about

Director David Fell said: rity has been overblown and some of it is a chattering class phenomenon. We think the case is more that the people who are putting forward that

whole labour market is insecure. People in the South-east

House prices % annual change rate



recession."
Further evidence of strong consumer sentiment was provided yesterday by the latest snapshot of manufacturing

activity from the Chartere Institute of Purchasing and tories continued to rise slowly out of the doldrums, expanding activity through-

in a row. have driven the monthly index upwards, to a seasonally adjusted 50.9 from 50.7 in stubborn stock overhangs

> Overall output was again held back by a fall in production of investment goods, and fierce competition drave down prices, which are declining more rapidly than at any time in the PMTs five-

thanks to a rise in new

According to the Halifax, house prices rose by 0.5 per cent in July and, following in-creases in 11 of the past 12 months, were 5.3 per cent up | Clinton said that the fastest

on a year earlier.
The Halifax is forecasting no further acceleration in house-price inflation for the rest of 1996 and is leaving its forecast at 5 per cent for the year as a whole.

Boom in the US

Mark Tran in New York

the opportu nity to boost the chances of his re-election presented by the latest set of buoyant US eco-

ter brought intensified pressure on the Federal coasting comfortably in the Reserve to raise interest rates later in the month as doomed. Mr Dole is expected to prove the property of the property of the property of the provention of the property of the provention against inflation — a move which could lose the administration some political

The US economy grew at

an impressive 4.2 per cent annual rate from April to June, slightly above Wall Street estimates. It was the strongest showing since a 4.9 per cent spurt during the second quarter of 1994. In an impromptu press conference in the White House Rose Garden, Mr growth rate in two years "was more evidence that our economy continues to surge ahead and that our economic strategy is

working". Mr Clinton recited a list

Even the markets cheered the latest economic data as the early Dow rose to 5667, up 38.10 — building on significant gains in the cluding strong growth, low and described the economy as "the strongest in a

The latest economic num-

bers will come as another body blow to presidential candidate Bob Dole. With the economy performing so well, Mr Dole's hopes of un-

cut package, possibly next week, to inject some life

of the year, largely due to in-come from Shell's chemicals

US growth

growth surged in the second quarter, there was would cool off in the second half of the year. In a surprise to econo-

mists, US manufacturing growth slowed in July according to the widely-watched National Association of Purchasing Management's index. The index fell to 50.2 per cent cent in June, when economists had been expecting a rise to 55 per cent.

The purchasing managers' group also reported a slow rate of economic growth in July after ex-panding strongly in June. The news immediately pushed up prices of the benchmark 30-year treasury bond, depressing the yield to 6.83 per cent.

But market psychology could quickly change with today's release of the July obs report. Wall Street beleves the economy created 200,000 new jobs last month. Should the figure overshoot those estimates substantially, the markets may take fright.

are unwelcome



Edited by Mark Milner

WHEN it comes to fat cats in the boardroom there often appear to be few to match the privatised

But a survey yesterday are merely taking a lead from their private sector brethren. Labour Research's study reveals that in the past finanreveals that in the past finan-cial year, 66 directors received golden handshakes of six figures or more, shar-ing a total of £32.9 million. That was before payments such as the £685,000 expected for Alan Michels — who quit yesterday as chief executive of cable TV grann TeleWest of cable TV group TeleWest -10 of those payments were made by former government-

owned companies. In recommending that 12 months should be the "nor-mal" length of executive serreport was sending a clear signal that such large pay-offs should not be tolerated

But even more imacceptable is a trend which has liberations. That is the quite unjustifiable practice of pay-

ing "golden hellos". Labour Research shows that six executives collected a combined \$1.1 million as they crossed the welcome mat at companies ranging from Sainsbury to Laura Ashley. British Gas is the only privatised group as yet to have

picked up on this practice.

If might be argued that golden hellos are needed to incentive plans with their previous employers. If such are deemed necessary, there are other ways of doing so, however - ways which, moreover, can be linked to performanca.

Signing-on fees are simply a nonsense. Sir Ronnie Hampel Greenbury's quiet successor — should take a look.

Clinton's figuring

OHN MAJOR must be casting an envious glance or two across the Atlantic where Bill Clinton basks in the sort of opinion poll lead currently being enjoyed by Tony Blair. On present form, the November presidential election looks like being the biggest landalide for the Democrats since Lyndon Johnson trounced Barry Goldwater in

One of Mr Clinton's big advantages is that fate seems to smile on him. Witness yesterday's economic data, where the increase in the annual growth rate to 4.2 per cent in the second quarter would nor-Shell closed down 11p at baying for the Federal

Reserve to bump up interest rates later this month.

Luckily for the President, however, the growth data was accompanied by the latest Purchasing Managers' report pointing to a sharp but unex-pected slowdown in the man-ufacturing sector. The result was that bond prices went through the roof as the odd on a rate rise lengthened. Wall Street's optimism i

the Fed's Alan Greenspan will pay more attention to the forward looking Purchasing Managers' report than to the backward looking growth data.
This is a reasonable asse

reputation as a number

is an aberration, and it is probably right. There is little prospect of a serious down-turn while consumer spending is so robust, but Mr Greenspan will probably wait until the open market com-mittee at the end of September before making mind on rates.

By then, the political obitu-aries for Bob Dole may al-ready have been written.

P penalty

Amillion motorists will proudly drive away from garage forecourts this month behind the wheel of a new car. For many the crucial factor will not be the make or model, but the P prefix on the registration plate.
The August orgy of new oar

tradition. Around a quarter of clocked up in this brief sum-

For the motor industry the thing must be a bore.

huge August bulge in demand. That means cars being stored ahead of sale time absorbing capital, to say nothing of the cost of storage it-self. It means extra costs through overtime as well as running counter to the indus-try's just-in-time production philosophy. Even dealers who may enjoy the hype need to find extra storage and staff.

The strongest argument for keeping the present system is that advanced by the police. Apparently the registration prefix is one of the pieces of information most remembered by witnesses. The main-stay of the system, however, is the desire of motorists not only to own a new car but to tell everyone else that it is new. P for poseur in fact.

The Department of Transport is looking at the possibility of changing the way cars are registered. It should con-There are alternatives --France's regional numbers, reviations, for example.

Consultation may yet take time, however. The car indus-try could well be rolling their "Rs" come next August.

Yorkshire sets pace for dividend surge

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

wave of shareholder handouts by privatised electricity companies was launched yesterday when Yorkshire Electricity said it was to boost dividends this year by more than 34 per cent. The move comes only days after City brokers SBC Warburg predicted that utilities were likely to splash out an-other £1.3 billion in sweeten-ers to shareholders before the election, bringing the total handed back to investors in the last three years to more

CONTROVERSIAL new

than £7 billion. Yorkshire's pledge was made to shareholders at the company's annual meeting in Grimsby and immediately sent shares in the group, one of only five remaining independent regional electricity companies, soaring to close last night up 25p at 705p.

Shareholders have been promised that the total new

promised that the total pay out for 1996/97 will be 52.66p a share and that dividends the year after will rise by a further 7 per cent. The initiative is expected to cost the company some 538 million. In addition the company is seeking shareholder approval to buy back 10 per cent of its shares. The move will fuel flesh criticism that the utili-

than to customers. In a statement to the AGM, chairman Chris Hampson said the decision to release increasing funds to invest fol-lowed an "outstanding year" for the company. He said the rich returns for shareholders were balanced by moves to cut bills for customers. "Our track record of deliv-

ering increased efficiency, of-fering the lowest prices for average general domestic customers and providing excel-lent returns to our sharehold ers underlines our commitment to being among the most successful compa-nies in the sector," he said.

The Yorskhire incentive scheme is just one of a num-ber of similar shareholder packages expected from other electricity and water companies. The rush to offer new sweeteners to shareholders is part of a campaign by the util-ities to protect themselves from Labour's threatened

But Labour has already warned that it will not be de-flected from its plans, arguing that the companies' capacity to fund payouts justifies the

Earlier this week Warburg predicted that East Midlands Electricity and the two gen-erators, National Power and PowerGen, were also likely to offer new sweeteners to the Inland Revenue have

Chemicals hurt Shell and Hanson Sarah Whitebloom

RASHING prices and margins in the chemi-cals industry yesterday saw Royal Dutch/Shell. Surope's biggest oil company suffer a fall in profits and the conglomerate Hanson concals plant.

Market concerns over the state of the industry were heightened by Shell's state-ment that the difficult trading conditions would continue until there was a significant upturn in the growth of major

European economies.
It had been anticipated that Shell's 1996 results would

HE Government has ac

tivated a damage limita-tion excercise to pre-vent the potential collapse of London's standing as the

world's premier shipping cen-tre after a tax raid on Kappa

Kappa is owned by Lou Kol-lakis, one of the most influen-

tial Greek shipowners in the capital with a reputed fortune

Now, in the wake of the in-

vestigation into Kappa and Mr Kollakis, Whitehall and

given assurances on the ayear.

Lisa Buckingham

Maritime.

of Ω 250 million.

Whitehall acts to

reassure Greeks

mirror last year's, when a that its total net income was period last year. The division weak first half was made up down 8 per cent, to £1.18 turned in income of just £185 for by a strong second half. But this hope was fading yes- of the year, largely due to interday after Shell's comm on the parlous state of the chemicals business.

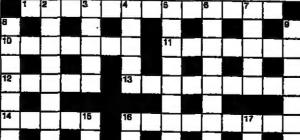
Meanwhile, Hanson dis-Meanwhile, hanson dis-closed that it as well as clos-ing one of its British plants it had reined back plans to ex-pand its subsidiary SCM's chemicals operations because

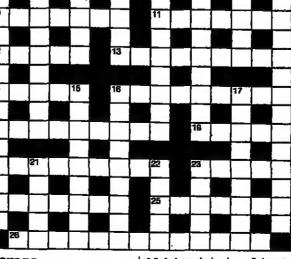
of market conditions. Yesterday's double blow fol-lows ICI's disclosure two weeks ago that it was step-ping up plans to sell its bulk chemicals business after trading profits from the operation

plunged. Shell revealed yesterday

business plunging 54 per cent compared with the same 911%p. Hanson ended **Guardian Crossword No 20,721**

operations.





of its financial and legal advi-sers have been raided. The Government's concern is that other London-based Across

Greek shipowners will take fright and move their busi-ness elsewhere. That would 1 Keep quiet! To talk rubbish is out of order (6,2,5) deprive the Baltic Exchange of about a third of its

The Baltic is the premier market for chartering ships and accounts, directly and in-directly, for about £2 billion of foreign exchange earnings

status of foreign-owned shipping groups. Although the Revenue would not comment, it is understood that the of-fices of both Kappa and some

> rlaky (7) A passion for European

12 A girl is caught in wire netting (5) 13 Lib. defies whip! That shows scepticism (9)

14 Acknowledge Juvenille's not Conservative (5)

16 Lord eats a consomm that's far from clear! (9)

18 Enclosed area stocked with drink is a challenge to those in the pub (4.2.3) 19 Have a strong drink before hard trek (5)

20 Greek goddess gets washed That's hard and dangerous!

Set by Chifonie

termit's ulcer's finally is here (7) 25 Ergo, a country in Africa's a

country in Africa (7) Small book stolen by one into corruption (6,7)

2 Agent loses head and hugs celebrity artist (9) 3 Detachment and ensign

Initially get together (5)

4 Make a change and put me 8 Exaggerate the number of deliveries to the gallery (9) 6 Writer got up earlier in the

literary work (5.4) 7 Artificial intelligence bears out politician was els at the time (5)

8 Regular's career is a stock type (8,5) 9 Often hear door forced to get another drink (3,3,3,4)

15 Make the little beast bowl and throw (9) is Exercise is about to stiffen soldiers' disposition (9) 17 Abriefcase is left with a

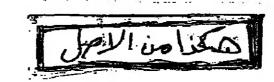
DEGG (9)

21 Toulouse-Lautrec took part in producing what's right (5)



23 Authorisation to wind up the clock (5)

Estudi? Then dall our solutions line on 0691 335 238, Calls cost 39p per min. cheep rate, 48p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS





Gunlaw' Cuits